

TODAY

# The New York Times

INTERNATIONAL WEEKLY



## OBAMA'S 2ND SWEARING IN



President Barack Obama is officially sworn-in in the Blue Room of the White House during the 57th Presidential Inauguration in Washington, Sunday Jan. 20, 2013.

(AP Photo/Doug Mills.)

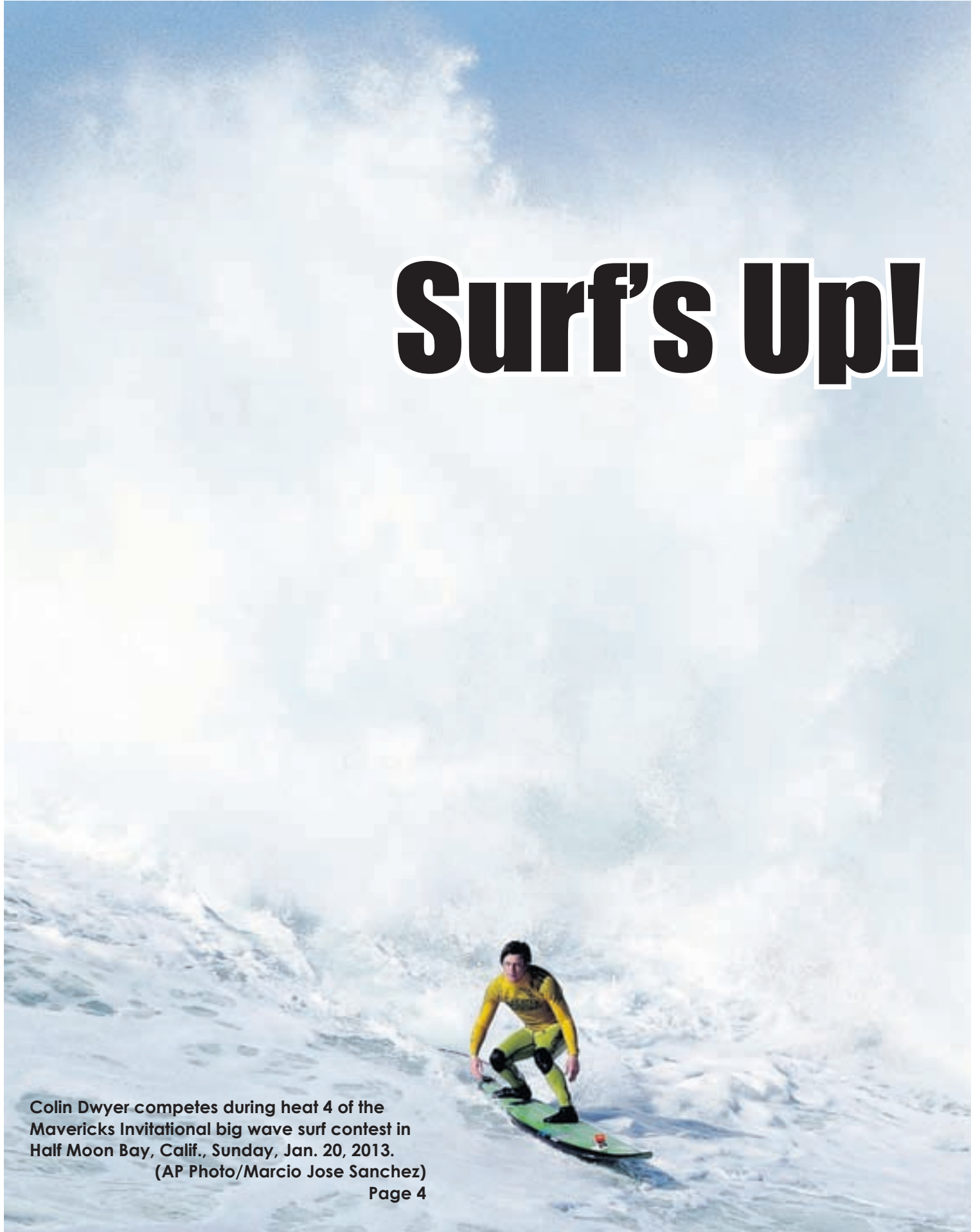
STEVEN R. HURST  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — In a private White House ceremony, Barack Obama has sworn for a second time to “protect and defend” the U.S. Constitution, officially affirming the duties of president in an oath he will repeat for hundreds of thousands of people during gala ceremonies Monday.

The day of festivities, parades and fancy dress balls will mark the beginning of Obama's second four-year term as America's first black president. The politician who rose improbably from a history as a community organizer in Chicago and a professor of constitutional law to the pinnacle of power faces a nation riven by partisan disunity, a still-weak economy and an array of challenges abroad.

Continued on Page 3

## Surf's Up!



Colin Dwyer competes during heat 4 of the Mavericks Invitational big wave surf contest in Half Moon Bay, Calif., Sunday, Jan. 20, 2013.

(AP Photo/Marcio Jose Sanchez)

Page 4



# Algeria death toll climbs past 80

**AOMAR OUALI**  
**ELAINE GANLEY**  
**Associated Press**

ALGIERS, Algeria (AP) — The death toll from the terrorist siege at a natural gas plant in the Sahara climbed past 80 on Sunday as Algerian forces searching the refinery for explosives found dozens more bodies, many so badly disfigured it was unclear whether they were hostages or militants, a security official said. Algerian special forces stormed the plant on Saturday to end the four-day siege, moving in to thwart

safety, and especially the French ones," the statement said.

Algeria said after Saturday's assault by government forces that at least 32 extremists and 23 hostages were killed. On Sunday, Algerian bomb squads sent in to blow up or defuse the explosives found 25 more bodies, said the security official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the situation.

"These bodies are difficult to identify. They could be the bodies of foreign hos-

also known to include at least one American as well as Filipino and French workers. Nearly two dozen foreigners by some estimates were unaccounted for.

It was unclear whether anyone was rescued in the final assault on the complex, which is run by the Algerian state oil company along with BP and Norway's Statoil.

Two private Algerian TV stations and an online news site said security forces scouring the plant found five militants hiding out and learned that three others



**Men look at the wreckage of a vehicle near Ain Amenas, Algeria. Algerian bomb squads scouring a gas plant where Islamist militants took dozens of foreign workers hostage found "numerous" new bodies on Sunday, Jan. 20, 2013 as they searched for explosive traps left behind by the attackers, a security official said, a day after a bloody raid ended the four-day siege of the remote desert refinery.**

(AP Photo/Echorouk Elyauoui)

what government officials said was a plot by the Islamic extremists to blow up the complex and kill all their captives with mines sown throughout the site. In a statement, the Masked Brigade, the group that claimed to have masterminded the takeover, warned of more such attacks against any country backing France's military intervention in neighboring Mali, where the French are trying to stop an advance by Islamic extremists.

"We stress to our Muslim brothers the necessity to stay away from all the Western companies and complexes for their own

tages or Algerians or terrorists," the official said.

In addition, a wounded Romanian who had been evacuated died, raising the overall death toll to at least 81.

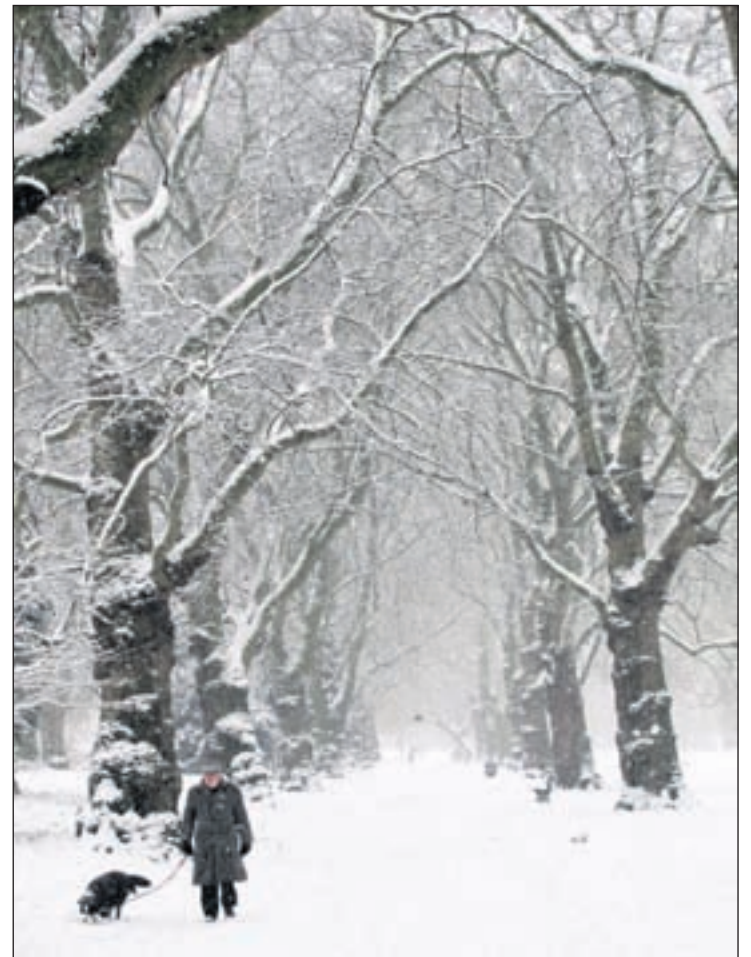
"Now, of course, people will ask questions about the Algerian response to these events, but I would just say that the responsibility for these deaths lies squarely with the terrorists who launched a vicious and cowardly attack," British Prime Minister David Cameron said.

Three Britons were killed and another three were feared dead.

The dead hostages were

had fled. That information could not be immediately confirmed by security officials.

Authorities said the bloody takeover was carried out Wednesday by 32 men from six countries, under the command from afar of the one-eyed Algerian bandit Moktar Belmoktar, founder of the Masked Brigade, based in Mali. The attacking force called itself "Those Who Sign in Blood." The Masked Brigade said Sunday the attack was payback against Algeria for allowing over-flights of French aircraft headed to Mali and for closing its long border with Mali. □



**A man walks his dog through a snow covered park in south London, Sunday, Jan. 20, 2013. The big freeze across Britain is here to stay, with more snow expected next week, slowing traffic and cancelling flights at Heathrow.**

(AP Photo/Tony Hicks)

## Heathrow cancels 260 flights, blaming snow, poor visibility

**LONDON (AP)** — London's Heathrow airport canceled 260 flights — about 20 percent of its usual schedule — on Sunday because of snow and low visibility, causing a third day of misery for travelers.

Flights have been disrupted since Friday at Heathrow, one of Europe's busiest airports, which has seen long lines and stranded passengers camping out on its terminal floors. Heathrow said it had spent millions to improve its ability to cope with icy weather after the airport was virtually shut down by snow for several days in December 2010. But it said that unlike airports with spare runway capacity, it could not space out aircraft during low visibility without causing disruptions.

"Because Heathrow operates at almost full capacity, there is simply no room to reschedule the delayed flights," it said in a statement.

The airport said more cancellations are planned, as forecasters say snow is expected to blanket Britain in the coming week.

Heathrow plans to reduce Monday's flight schedule by at least 10 percent, and it warned that more flights could be canceled if weather conditions at other European airports worsen.

In Germany, icy weather forced Frankfurt airport, Europe's third-busiest, to cancel nearly 292 flights on Sunday.

Gatwick, London's second-busiest airport, said it was operating a normal service Sunday with some delays. □





## AROUND THE WORLD

## Merkel's coalition loses state election

**BERLIN (AP)** — Germany's center-left opposition has won a wafer-thin victory over Chancellor Angela Merkel's coalition in a major state election — dealing her a setback as she seeks a third term later this year. The opposition coalition of Social Democrats and Greens won a single-seat majority in the state legislature in Lower Saxony, a region of 8 million people in northwestern Germany. The state has been run for a decade by a coalition of Merkel's conservative Christian Democratic Union and the pro-market Free Democrats, the same parties that form the national government. The 58-year-old Merkel will seek another four-year term in September. □

## 13 suspected al-Qaida killed in Yemen

**SANAA, Yemen (AP)** — A Yemen security official says an explosion in the province of Bayda has killed at least 13 suspected al-Qaida militants. The official in Bayda's capital city of Radda says the explosion went off in a house owned by a known al-Qaida operative, Ahmed Abdullah Deif-Allah Al-Zahab. It appeared to be an accident. Residents were barred Sunday from approaching the scene of the incident by militants with links to al-Qaida, the official said. Early last year Al-Qaida's Yemen-based branch briefly seized the town of Radda, an outpost 160 kilometers (100 miles) south of the capital. The group is active in southern Yemen. □

## Climbers killed in U.K. "fell 1,000 feet"

**LONDON (AP)** — A mountain rescuer says the four climbers who died in an avalanche in the Scotland Highlands fell around 1,000 feet 300 meters and ended up buried in thick snow. The two men and two women were found dead Saturday after the accident at Glencoe. A fifth woman in the group, aged 24, has been hospitalized, and a sixth man managed to escape using his ice ax. Andy Nelson from the Glencoe Mountain Rescue team said the group was buried in snow up to 6 1/2 feet deep. He said Sunday the slide would have unfolded "in a split second" and "they would have been traveling at a speed that was impossible to stop." □

## Man shot dead at Puerto Rico festival

**SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)** — Police say a 32-year-old man has been fatally shot in front of hundreds of onlookers at a street festival in the colonial district of Puerto Rico's capital. Police say Julio Ramos Oliver was standing with friends in a packed plaza in Old San Juan early Sunday when a gunman approached him and shot him twice in the head. A doctor pronounced him dead at the scene. The plaza was thronged with tourists and locals celebrating the San Sebastian Street Festival, a raucous four-day gathering in a historic area with brightly colored Spanish colonial buildings. The shooting sent horrified onlookers scurrying for safety. □

## Austria backs retaining conscript army

**VIENNA (AP)** — Austrians voted overwhelmingly Sunday to retain their conscript army, with preliminary results showing around 60 percent rejecting the proposed shift to a professional force. The wide margin of victory came as a surprise, since pre-election surveys had that side ahead by only a few percentage points. The results, published by the Interior Ministry, had 59.8 percent backing the present system and 40.2 percent voting to change it. Overall turnout was 49 percent. Absentee votes were still to be tallied but were not expected to change the outcome. □

## Obama sworn in for 2nd term

Continued from front

Obama on Monday will take the oath again before the crowd and is expected to follow the recent tradition of walking at least part of the way back to the White House, surrounded by cheers.

In the briefest of ceremonies Sunday, with family gathered in the White House, Obama took the oath of office shortly before

memory and had to do it again with Obama later.

Monday's events are expected to have less of the effervescence of four years ago, when the 1.8 million people packed into central Washington knew they were witnessing history. Obama is now older, grayer and more entrenched in the politics he once tried rise above. Officials are expecting 500,000 to 700,000 people to turn

White House in 2008 as the first black president was seen by many as a turning point. In his first inaugural address, Obama vowed to moderate the partisan anger engulfing the country, but the nation is only more divided four years on.

While Obama convincingly won a second term, the jubilation that surrounded him four years ago is subdued this time around — a reality for second-term



**President Obama takes the oath of office at the official swearing-in ceremony in the Blue Room of the White House Sunday, Jan. 20, 2013. Administering the oath is Supreme Court Chief Justice Roberts. Holding the Bible is first lady Michele Obama and looking on are Obama children Sasha and Malia.**

(AP Photo/Doug Mills)

fore noon, as required by law. With his left hand on a family bible held by first lady Michelle Obama, the 44th president raised his right hand and repeated the time-honored words read out by Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts. The intimate swearing-in met the legal requirement that presidents officially take office on Jan. 20. Because that date fell on a Sunday this year, the traditional public ceremonies surrounding the start of a president's term were put off to Monday, which coincides this year with the birthday of revered civil rights leader Martin Luther King.

Obama made no special remarks at Sunday's ceremony. "I did it," he said quietly to his youngest daughter, Sasha, before wrapping her in a hug. The oath went smoothly, unlike four years ago, when Roberts made mistakes while trying to recite the oath from

out Monday.

As he enters his second term, Americans increasingly see Obama as a strong leader, someone who stands up for his beliefs and is able to get things done, according to a survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. The survey shows him with a 52 percent job approval rating, among the highest rankings since early in his presidency. His personal favorability, 59 percent, has rebounded from a low of 50 percent in the 2012 campaign against Republican Mitt Romney. When the partying is done on Monday, it's back to business for a president who is leading a nation that is, perhaps, as divided as at any time since the Civil War 150 years ago. That conflict put down a rebellion by southern states and ended slavery.

In light of the nation's troubled racial history, Obama's election to the

presidents. He guided the country through many crushing challenges after taking office in 2009: ending the Iraq war, putting the Afghan war on a course toward U.S. withdrawal and saving the collapsing economy. He won approval for a sweeping health care overhaul. Yet onerous problems remain, and his success in resolving them will define his place in history. Obama's Democrats and opposition Republicans, who control the House of Representatives, are at political war about gun control and managing the nation's finances. Shortly before Obama took the oath privately on Sunday, a top White House adviser made the rounds of nationally televised talk shows, saying he was confident Congress would pass comprehensive immigration reform this year, but he sounded less sure about prospects for toughening the nation's gun laws. □



# World's best big wave surfers compete at Mavericks



Ryan Augenstein competes during the third heat of the Mavericks Surf Competition in Half Moon Bay, Calif., Sunday, Jan. 20, 2013.

(AP Photo/Marcio Jose Sanchez)

**JASON DEAREN**  
Associated Press

**HALF MOON BAY, California (AP)** — As massive

swells lumber across the Pacific toward Northern

California, nearly two dozen of the world's best big wave surfers went to meet them Sunday at the infamous surfing break Mavericks. For the first time since 2010, the Mavericks Invitational surf contest — which requires wave faces of at least 20 feet (six meters) — occurred at the bone-crushing break that has claimed the lives of two expert big wave surfers. Wave forecasters this week saw an excellent mixture of swell, wind, tide and sunny skies. Once the decision was made to run the contest, the call went out to the surfers, giving them a couple of days to pack their boards and wetsuits, and hop a plane. Surfing the wave at Mavericks is a feat that takes

athletic skill, experience and nerve. The swells travel through deep water for five days before hitting a small, finger-like section of shallow reef that juts out into the sea. When the swell meets the reef, the wave jumps upward and crashes back down with a fury, eventually washing through a section of craggy rocks. The takeoff is often so steep that the surfers' big-wave "gun" surfboards leave the wave face, forcing the surfers to land near the bottom and make a quick turn before being pummeled by the wave's lip. The spot — named after the dog of Jeff Clark, who is credited with being the first to surf Mavericks — has earned a nasty reputation. □




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## NTSB: Plane battery that burned not overcharged



A line of 787 jets are parked at Paine Field in Everett, Wash. The NTSB says the battery that caught fire in a Japan Airlines Boeing 787 in Boston earlier this month was not overcharged.

(AP Photo/Elaine Thompson)

JOAN LOWY

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The battery that caught fire in a Japan Airlines Boeing 787 in Boston earlier this month was not overcharged, but government investigators said there could still be problems with wiring or other charging components. An examination of the flight data recorder indicated that the battery didn't exceed its designed voltage of 32 volts, the National Transportation Safety Board said in a statement. NTSB investigators are continuing to look at the battery system. They plan to meet Tuesday with officials from Securaplane Technologies Inc., manufacturer of the charger for the 787s lithium ion batteries, at the company's headquarters in Tucson, Arizona, said Kelly Nantel, a spokeswoman for the board.

"Potentially there could be some other charging issue," Nantel said. "We're not prepared to say there was no charging issue." Even though it appears the voltage limit wasn't exceeded in the case of the Japan Airlines 787 battery that caught fire on Jan. 7 in Boston, it's possible that the battery failures in that plane and in an All Nippon Airways plane that made an emergency landing in Japan last week may be due to a charging problem, according to John Goglia, a former NTSB board member and aviation safety expert.

Too much current flowing too fast into a battery can overwhelm the battery, causing it to short-circuit and overheat even if the battery's voltage remains within its design limit, he said.

"The battery is like a big sponge," Goglia said. "You can feed it with an eye dropper or you can feed it with a garden hose. If allowed, it will soak up everything it can from the garden hose until it destroys itself."

There are so many redundancies and safeguards in aviation that when an accident or mishap occurs, it almost always is the result of a chain of events rather than a single failure, he said.

The Japan Airlines plane caught fire Jan. 7 while it was sitting on the tarmac at Boston's Logan Airport. In a separate incident on Jan. 16, an ANA flight made an emergency landing in western Japan after a cockpit message warned of battery problems and a burning smell was detected in the cockpit and cabin.

An investigator in Japan said Friday that the burned insides of the plane's lithium ion battery show the battery received voltage in excess of its design limits. Since then, all 50 787s that Boeing has delivered to airlines' fleets have been grounded, and the manufacturer has halted deliveries of new planes until it can address the electrical

problems.

The batteries in two incidents "had a thermal over-run because they short-circuited," Goglia said.

"The question is whether it was a manufacturing flaw in the battery or whether it was induced by battery charging." □

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**Fire chief:**

## Chaplain is 1 of 5 US shooting victims

SUSAN BRYAN  
Associated Press  
ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico (AP) — A 15-year-old boy remained in custody Sunday night as detectives tried to piece together what led to the shooting of five people, including three young children, who were found dead in a New Mexico home.

The teenager was arrested on murder and other charges in connection with the shootings, which happened Saturday night at the home in a rural area southwest of downtown Albuquerque, said Lt. Sid Covington, a sheriff's spokesman.

Detectives did not immediately release the victims' names, but word of the shootings traveled quickly through the law enforcement community, and officials began offering their condolences for Greg Griego, a spiritual leader known for his work with firefighters and the 13 years he spent as a volunteer chaplain at the county jail.

"Chaplin Griego was a dedicated professional that passionately served his fellow man and the firefighters of this community," Fire Chief James Breen said in a statement. "His calming spirit and gentle nature will be greatly missed." Jail Chief Ramon Rustin said Griego was instrumental in the creation of the Metropolitan Detention Center's chaplain program and worked to get inmates integrated back into the community.

Griego also was a former member of the pastoral staff at Calvary, a Christian church in Albuquerque. As part of his work there, he oversaw the Straight Street program for jail inmates. Covington said detectives were working to positively

al guns were found at the home, one of which was a semi-automatic military-style rifle. Investigators were trying to determine who owned the guns. Authorities also declined to release details of any conversation that the 15-year-

and ambulances arrive at the home Saturday night. The road was blocked and word of the shootings began to make its way through the neighborhood. Peter Gomez, a 54-year-old carpenter who lives about 200 yards (183 meters) from



**A Bernalillo County sheriff's deputy blocks the dirt road that leads to a home where detectives on Sunday, Jan. 20, 2013, were investigating the deaths of five people who were shot to death south of Albuquerque, N.M. Authorities say a teenager has been arrested and booked on murder and other charges in connection with the shootings.**

(AP Photo/Susan Montoya Bryan)

identify the five victims as well as the teenager's relationship to them. "Right now we're to the meticulous points of processing the scene and collecting physical evidence, and this is a vast scene with a lot of physical evidence," Covington said. Authorities said each victim suffered more than one gunshot wound, and sever-

old had with investigators. The teenager was booked on two counts of murder and three counts of child abuse resulting in death. On Sunday, a police roadblock cut off public access to the narrow dirt road that leads to the home, which is surrounded by trees and an agricultural field on one side. Neighbors said they saw the first police cars

the home, said he had seen the family — a husband and wife and their four children — pass by many times but didn't know them personally. "It's a horrible thing," Gomez said. "You see all this stuff that happens all over the country, the shootings in the schools and theaters, and then it happens right here. It's sad." □

## Thousands rally against stricter US gun control

**WILL WEISSERT**  
Associated Press  
**AUSTIN, Texas (AP)** — Gun advocates — some with rifles slung across shoulders or pistols holstered at the hip — have rallied peacefully in state capitals nationwide against President Barack Obama's sweeping federal gun-control proposals.

Summoned via social media for the "Guns Across America" event, participants gathered Saturday for protests large and small against stricter limits sought on firearms. Only a few dozen turned out in South Dakota and a few hundred in Boise, Idaho. Some 2,000 turned out in New York and large crowds also rallied in Connecticut, Tennessee, Texas, Utah and Washington state.

The rallies came on a day in which accidental shootings at gun shows in North Carolina, Indiana and Ohio left five people hurt. The wounded included two bystanders hit by shotgun pellets after a 12-gauge shotgun discharged at a show in Raleigh, N.C., as the owner unzipped its case for a law officer to check at a security entrance, authorities said. A retired deputy there also suffered a slight hand injury. About 800 people gathered for the "Guns Across America" event in Austin, Texas, as speakers took to the microphone under a giant Texas flag stamped with one word: "Independent." □



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## Newtown holds church service to 'mend hearts'

Associated Press

NEWTOWN, Conn. (AP) —

Town residents have a long journey ahead of them after last month's deadly elementary school shooting, but destiny lies in their ability to be united, a local minister said Sunday at a church service honoring the victims.

The gathering served "to heal and mend hearts" broken when a gunman killed 20 children and six adults at Sandy Hook Elementary School, said the Rev. Matt Crebbin, senior minister of the Newtown Congregational Church.

"We are all interconnected," he said.

The church service, attended by about 300 people, also honored the legacy of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. the day before his national holiday, organizers said. "It is fitting, on this weekend, when our nation honors the service and sacrifice of Dr. King, that we gather in worship to honor the service and sacrifice of the persons who died in the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy," Crebbin said before the service. The gunman had killed his mother at home before going to the school on Dec. 14 and shooting the students and educators and committing suicide in one of the deadliest school massacres in U.S. history. □

## US Senator:

# Democrats in chamber will pass budget

PHILIP ELLIOTT

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Democrats intend to approve a budget for the first time in almost four years, a prominent lawmaker said Sunday, but he said it will call for higher tax revenues that Republicans are sure to oppose.

Sen. Chuck Schumer also said an announcement by House Republicans that they plan to approve a short-term increase in the nation's borrowing limit without demanding spending cuts in return was a "positive step." He added, though, that the extension should be longer than the three months they have outlined.

"We don't want to play 'fiscal cliff' every three months," Schumer said, referring to the recent last-minute action by Congress to avoid abrupt deep spending cuts and tax increases that could have brought on another recession.

Fiscal issues are among the first that President Barack Obama will face in his second term, which officially began at noon Sunday.

Republicans in recent days have backed away from their insistence that they would not increase the nation's borrowing limit — known as the debt ceiling — without deep spending concessions. If the new

proposal holds, the shift would clear the way for Congress to avoid a potential government default this spring.

But Republican officials insist that they will not move unless Senate Democrats give them the debate

party movement, said he supports the strategy from his party's leaders in the House of Representatives.

"There is no doubt the Senate hadn't done its job," said Cruz, who was elected to his first term in November. "It's been nearly

"We Democrats have always intended to do a budget this year," Schumer said, adding the Democrats' budget would raise taxes while offering overhauls to the tax code likely to find Republican support. The White House said it remained committed to what officials called a "balanced" approach to cutting the nation's \$16.4 trillion nation debt.

Asked by ABC's George Stephanopolous whether Obama "will only sign a budget deal if it includes new revenues," White House senior adviser David Plouffe agreed.

"Yes, it's got to be balanced," said Plouffe. "We need spending cuts, entitlement reform and revenue. We have to have that."

Plouffe said the new Republican strategy reflects a weak opposition after November's election.

Republicans also added a caveat designed to prod Senate Democrats to pass a budget: no pay for lawmakers if there again is no budget passed this year. House Republicans have passed budgets for two consecutive years; the Democratic-controlled Senate last passed a complete budget in 2009.

Schumer and Cruz spoke with NBC. Plouffe appeared on CNN, ABC and CBS. □



Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., displays the official inaugural gift to be presented to President Barack Obama, during the 57th Presidential Inaugural.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

over the federal budget they have been denied for years.

Sen. Ted Cruz, a Texas Republican and a favorite of the small-government tea

four years since it's passed a budget. And the Senate should pass a budget."

The Senate Republicans will get a budget from the Democrats, Schumer said.

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## Islamists flee Malian town after airstrikes

**BABA AHMED  
KRISTA LARSON  
Associated Press**

**BAMAKO, Mali (AP)** — Burned out vehicles and scattered bullets dotted the streets of a central Malian town after radical Islamists retreated following days of French airstrikes, according to video obtained Sunday. The Malian military announced late Saturday that the government was now controlling Diabaly, marking an important accomplishment for the French-led offensive to oust the extremists from northern and central Mali.

"People are calm since the Islamists left the city of Diabaly before it was taken by the Malian and French forces yesterday," said Oumar Coulibaly, who lives in the nearby town of Niono. The Associated Press obtained video filmed Saturday by a local resident, which shows people from Diabaly inspecting the fighters' vehicles and charred weaponry destroyed by French airstrikes and Malian ground forces. Several armored vehicles belonging to the Malian army also can be seen lying abandoned and damaged at the side of roads in Diabaly, a town of 35,000 that is home to an important military camp.

The video marks the first pictures to emerge from the area, which was taken over by al-Qaida-linked militants at the beginning of the week. The zone remains blocked off by a military cordon and journalists have not been able to access the area so far.

Also Sunday, French forces extended their deployment northward up from the central town of Markala, reinforcing their presence in the towns of Niono and Mopti, said Col. Thierry

Burkhard, a French military spokesman.

Burkhard, speaking by telephone from Paris, said he could not confirm claims that Malian troops had recaptured Diabaly. Other French soldiers said the situation there remained murky. "In theory, there are few or no rebels there, but that needs to be con-

and killed the driver," said a Malian intelligence officer who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to journalists. As they work to root out the jihadists and secure local populations, French and Malian forces also have to contend with some villagers who have lined up be-

neighbors talked of a military intervention to retake northern Mali for months, but it was not until the French began their offensive Jan. 11 that the Islamists faced a military threat to their grip on power.

The Islamists took Diabaly several days later — 270 miles (430 kilometers) away from the capital — as part



**French troops walk in Niono, some 400 kilometers (249 miles) north of the capital Bamako Sunday Jan. 20, 2013. The Malian military announced late Saturday that the government was now controlling Diabaly, marking an important accomplishment for the French-led offensive to oust the extremists from northern and central Mali.**

(AP Photo/Jerome Delay)

firmed, so we will wait to see what happens in the days to come over there," said Lt. Col. "Frederic", a French Foreign Legion spokesman in Mali. His family name wasn't provided in keeping with French operational military policy.

Residents who had fled to the nearby town of Niono and officials described how Islamists fled the town on foot after days of French airstrikes that destroyed their vehicles.

"They tried to hijack a car, but the driver didn't stop and they fired on the car

hind the rebels.

"The war against the Islamists is not at all easy and there's a very small part of the population which is helping their cause," said Col. Seydou Sogoba, the Malian force commander in the Niono region. "That is what is making the fight against them tough."

The radical Islamists first seized control of the main towns in northern Mali nine months ago, taking advantage of a power vacuum after a military coup in the distant capital of Bamako. West African regional

of an alarming descent into central Mali and closer to the government seat of power in Bamako.

France, which as of Saturday had 2,000 troops in Mali and continued to ramp up, wants African forces to eventually take the lead. The French foreign minister, attending a West African summit in Ivory Coast on Saturday that focused, said such a handover could take weeks.

Neighboring countries are expected to contribute around 3,000 troops to the operation. □

## Egypt clashes grow ahead of anniversary

**AYA BATRAWY  
Associated Press**

**CAIRO (AP)** — A courthouse went up in flames in Egypt's northern Mediterranean city of Alexandria during clashes between protesters and riot police Sunday, according to witnesses.

The blaze destroyed part of the building, burning some files. A security official said unidentified assailants were responsible.

This was the second straight day of clashes there ahead of the two-year anniversary of Egypt's uprising that toppled longtime ruler Hosni Mubarak.

Young men threw rocks at police, who responded with tear gas, outside the courthouse where six senior police officers were on trial for deaths of protesters during the nation's 2011 uprising. Two years after the revolt was first sparked, families of the deceased remain frustrated over the pace of reform. Rights groups have criticized what they say remains a culture of police impunity.

Two trucks that transport riot police was set ablaze outside the courthouse, which is near the Italian consulate, after Judge Mohammed Hammad Abdel-Hadi resigned from the case on Sunday. He did not say why he quit.

His resignation means a new trial for the police officers accused of using excessive force that led to the deaths of protesters during the unrest that ousted Mubarak.

Alexandria's former security director is among those on trial. Mohammed Ibrahim has since retired, while the others are still working for the Interior Ministry. □



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## Berlusconi says won't be premier if his party wins

**FRANCES D'EMILIO**  
**Associated Press**

**ROME (AP)** — Silvio Berlusconi insisted on Sunday he won't be premier again if his conservative party, now trailing in opinion polls, wins Italian elections next month. The media mogul told an interviewer on Sky TG24 TV

no Alfano," Berlusconi said. Front-runner in polls testing sentiment for the Feb. 24-25 elections is center-left leader, Pier Luigi Bersani. But it appears unlikely he'll win enough votes to govern alone. A potential coalition partner is caretaker Premier Mario Monti, who is head-

zone debt crisis. Bersani proved to be one of Monti's staunchest allies in Parliament, backing him on pension and labor reforms. Those measures, including raising the retirement age and making it easier to fire workers, were bitterly opposed by Italy's unions, traditional allies of the political left.

Milan daily Corriere della Sera, whose editor-in-chief interviewed Monti for Sunday's edition, said that the outgoing premier was considering modifying some of the labor reforms.

Asked about reports that he might soften the measure that made it easier to fire workers, Monti would only say that "for now, nothing had been decided."

In the interview, Monti said

his candidacy tapped into the public's "intolerance" with the ruling class. On Sunday, during an appearance in the northern city of Bergamo, Monti presented his candidates for parliamentary seats, including many neophytes to politics, such as mid-level businessmen and leaders of volunteer groups.

Also presenting a slate pitching to citizen disgust over politics, corruption and incompetence is Beppe Grillo, a strident comic and political agitator whose "Five Star" movement, like Monti's grouping, is another fresh phenomenon in national elections. Polls indicate the comic's bid to win over those disenchanted with mainstream

politics could make a strong showing.

Berlusconi is among political leaders scrambling to line up "clean" candidates for the elections, eliminating from the ballot politicians who are under investigation or have lower-court convictions for corruption or ties with organized crime.

A former executive in Berlusconi's media empire, Marcello Dell'Utri, who has been convicted in Sicily of Mafia association, told Sky TG24 Sunday he was honoring Berlusconi's request not to run again for the Senate. While Berlusconi is scrutinizing candidates' respectability, he himself is running to keep his seat in Parliament despite a recent tax fraud conviction. □



**Former Premier Silvio Berlusconi gestures as he is interviewed during a television show recorded in Rome, Italy.**

**(AP Photo/Mauro Scrobogna)**

that his political heir and former justice minister, Angelino Alfano, is his choice to head Italy's next government. For months, Berlusconi has been coy about whether he wants a fourth term as premier. "If we win, the premier will be Angeli-

ing a centrist ticket and trailing both Bersani and Berlusconi in polls.

Monti, an internationally respected economist, was appointed in late 2011 to replace Berlusconi, who resigned as Italy risked succumbing to the Euro-

## Explosives seized near Sinai

**CAIRO (AP)** — A senior Egyptian security official says police have seized a ton of explosives headed to the Sinai Peninsula, which borders Israel and the Gaza Strip.

Adel Rifaat, security chief of Suez city at the southern end of the Suez Canal, said Sunday the explosives were discovered in a truck crossing into Sinai from mainland Egypt through a traffic tunnel under the canal.

The truck driver was arrest-

ed for questioning about the origin of his cargo and its final destination.

Lawlessness has been rife in Sinai since the ouster of longtime ruler Hosni Mubarak in February 2011. Weapons have flowed into the peninsula from Libya, where an eight-month civil war ended in late 2011. Many of these weapons are smuggled into Hamas-ruled Gaza.

Sinai's Islamist militants have also grown in strength. □

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## Bomb explodes at Athens shopping mall, 2 wounded

**ELENA BECATOROS**

**Associated Press**

**ATHENS, Greece (AP)** — A bomb exploded at a shopping mall in Athens on Sunday, slightly wounding two security guards and forcing the evacuation of about 200 people.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the bombing, the latest in a string of violent attacks. Two warning calls were made to local media about 50 minutes before the blast, leading authorities to evacuate people from the four-story mall in the Maroussi suburb, a police official told the Associated Press. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

Shops are closed at the mall on Sundays but restaurants and movie the-

aters are open. The device exploded about 20 minutes before some movies

were to start, mainly children's films.

"Today's bomb attack

at The Mall, an area that many mainly young people chose for their Sunday outing, shows that we are faced with a new kind of terrorism that not only chooses symbolic targets, but wants death and blood," said the socialist PASOK party, which is part of the three-party governing coalition. The device was a small bomb believed to have been planted in a trash bin. The blast caused minor damages to nearby stores, the official said.

The bomb comes after a string of apparently politically-motivated attacks, as Greece struggles through a financial crisis that has led successive governments to impose deeply resented salary and pension cuts and tax hikes. □



A police officer secures the street in front of a mall following a blast in Athens, Sunday, Jan. 20 2013. A bomb exploded Sunday at a shopping mall in Athens, slightly wounding two security guards, police said.

(AP Photo/Kostas Tsironis)

## Japan threatens warning shots in China island dispute

**ERIC TALMADGE**

**Associated Press**

**TOKYO (AP)** — Japan says it may fire warning shots and take other measures to keep foreign aircraft from violating its airspace in the latest verbal blast between Tokyo and Beijing that raises concerns that a dispute over hotly contested islands could spin out of control.

Japanese officials made the comments after Chinese fighters tailed its warplanes near the islands recently.

The incident is believed to be the first scrambling of Chinese fighters since the tensions began to rise last spring.

According to Chinese media, a pair of J-10 fighters was scrambled after Japanese F-15s began tailing a

Chinese surveillance plane near the disputed islands in the East China Sea. China has complained the surveillance flight did not violate Japanese airspace and the F-15s were harassing it. It was the first time the Chinese media has reported fighters being mobilized to respond to Japanese air force activity in the area and comes amid what Japan says is a rapid intensification of Chinese air force activity around the islands, where Japanese and Chinese coast guard ships have squared off for months. Though there have been no outright clashes, the increased sea and air operations have fueled worries that the situation could spin out of control.

Such concerns have grown over official comments

suggesting new Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and his Cabinet are considering the use of "tracer" fire as a means of responding to airspace incursions. Tracer rounds are designed to burn brightly to get the attention of a pilot who may have missed other warnings due to a radio malfunction, while also indicating that the aircraft firing them is prepared to take further action.

"Every country has procedures for how to deal with a violation of its territory that continues after multiple cautionary measures," Japanese Defense Minister Itsunori Onodera said Wednesday when asked if tracer shots would be fired against intruding aircraft that refuse to change course. "We have response

measures ready that are consistent with global standards."

Onodera said the use of warning shots has long been provided for under Japan's defense policies and is widely accepted under international rules of engagement. Japan's air force has not actually resorted to them since 1987 — against a Soviet aircraft — and none were fired last week.

But Chinese and Japanese media have suggested Tokyo is publicly floating the possibility to test China's reaction.

The escalation of tensions has worried the United States, with Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton saying Friday that while the U.S. doesn't take a position on who has sovereignty

over the islands, it opposes "any unilateral actions that would seek to undermine Japanese administration." That brought a sharp retort from the Chinese Foreign Ministry on Sunday. The comments "ignore the facts" that the islands are China's inherent territory, spokesman Qin Gang said in a statement that urged the U.S. to adopt "a responsible attitude."

In Beijing last week, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said China is on "high alert" and suggested Japan is escalating the tensions over the islands, called the Diaoyu in China and the Senkaku in Japan. Taiwan also claims the small isles, which are uninhabited but may be surrounded by valuable underwater natural resources. □





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## Indicted Megaupload founder launches new venture

**KRISTEN GELINEAU**  
**Associated Press**

**SYDNEY (AP)** — Indicted Megaupload founder Kim Dotcom launched a new file-sharing website on Sunday, promising users amped-up privacy levels in a defiant move against the U.S. prosecutors who accuse him of facilitating massive online piracy.

The colorful entrepreneur unveiled the "Mega" site ahead of a lavish gala and press conference at his New Zealand mansion on Sunday night, the anniversary of his arrest on racketeering charges related to his now-shuttered Megaupload file-sharing site. Megaupload, which Dotcom started in 2005, was one of the most popular sites on the Web until U.S. prosecutors shut it down, accusing Dotcom and several company officials of facilitating millions of illegal downloads.

In Dotcom's typical grandiose style, the launch party featured a tongue-in-cheek re-enactment of the dramatic raid on his home a year earlier, when New Zealand police swooped down in helicopters onto the mansion grounds and nabbed him in a safe room where he was hiding.

"Mega is going to be huge, and nothing will stop Mega — whoo!" a gleeful Dotcom bellowed from a giant stage set up in his yard, seconds before a helicopter roared overhead and faux police agents rappelled down the side of his mansion. Dotcom eventually ordered everyone to "stop this madness!" before breaking out into a dance alongside miniskirt-clad "guards" as music boomed.

Bravado aside, interest in

the site was certainly high. Dotcom said half a million users registered for Mega in its first 14 hours.

U.S. authorities are trying to extradite the German-

communications were taken offline and free speech was attacked. Let me be clear to those who use copyright law as a weapon to drown innovation



**Indicted Megaupload founder Kim Dotcom appears on a large screen during the launch of a new file-sharing website called "Mega" at his Coatesville mansion in Auckland, New Zealand, Sunday, Jan. 20, 2013. The colorful entrepreneur unveiled the site ahead of a lavish gala and press conference on the anniversary of his arrest on racketeering charges related to his now-shuttered Megaupload file-sharing site.**

(AP Photo/Richard Robinson)

born Internet tycoon from New Zealand, where he is free on bail. Prosecutors say Dotcom made tens of millions of dollars while filmmakers and songwriters lost around \$500 million in copyright revenue.

Dotcom argues that he can't be held responsible for copyright infringement committed by others, and insists Megaupload complied with copyrights by removing links to pirated material when asked.

"Our company and assets were taken away from us without a hearing," Dotcom said. "The privacy of our users was intruded on,

and stifle competition: You will be left on the side of the road of history."

Mega, like Megaupload, allows users to store and share large files. It offers 50 gigabytes of free storage, much more than similar sites such as Dropbox and Google Drive, and features a drag-and-drop upload tool. The key difference is an encryption and decryption feature for data transfers that Dotcom says will protect him from the legal drama that has entangled Megaupload and threatened to put him behind bars. The decryption keys for uploaded files are held

by the users, not Mega, which means the company can't see what's in the files being shared. Dotcom argues that Mega — which bills itself as "the privacy company" — therefore can't be held liable for content it cannot see.

"What he's trying to do is give himself a second-string argument: 'Even if I was wrong before, this one's all right because how can I control something if I don't know that it's there?'" said Sydney attorney Charles Alexander, who specializes in intellectual property law. "I can understand the argument; whether it would be successful or not is another matter."

To Dotcom, the concept is very simple.

"If someone sends something illegal in an envelope through your postal service," he says, "you don't shut down the post office." U.S. prosecutors declined to comment on the new site, referring only to a court document that cites several promises Dotcom made while seeking bail that he would not — and could not — start a Megaupload-style business until the criminal case was resolved. "I can assure the Court that I have no intention and there is no risk of my reactivating the Megaupload.com website or establishing a similar Internet-based business during the period until the resolution of the extradition proceedings,"

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# As FARC cease-fire lapses, peace hopes stay alive

**LIBARDO CARDONA**  
**Associated Press**

**BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)**

— A unilateral cease-fire by Colombia's main leftist rebel group set to end at midnight Sunday was deemed largely successful by analysts, who say it showed that divisions in the insurgency's ranks are relatively minor.

The rebels' main negotiator in peace talks taking place in Cuba, Ivan Marquez, offered Sunday to extend the two-month cease-fire if the government would agree to embrace it.

An alternative, Marquez told reporters in Havana as he headed into peace talks centering on agrarian reform, could be to "regularize the war" by obtaining promises from the government that it would stop placing military bases in population centers.

There was no immediate response from Colombia's government, though President Juan Manuel Santos has refused to halt hostilities during peace talks that formally began in Havana in November after six months of secret negotiations.

In a communique published Sunday, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, said it had not mounted "even a single attack on bases or fixed installations of the armed forces, nor on police barracks or posts."

It said that any casualties suffered by Colombia's security forces were dealt in self-defense. The FARC said that during the same period a year earlier it had killed at least 284 security force members and wounded 278.

The rebels did not say how many casualties it had suffered during the unilateral cease-fire but at least 33 were killed in at least two

major aerial bombardments on rebel camps.

There were sporadic guerrilla attacks but analyst Jorge Restrepo of the independent CERAC think tank said they exhibited "rela-

tively minor divisions within the FARC" about whether a unilateral cease-fire was appropriate.

The Nuevo Arco Iris think tank said guerrilla actions during the period were

down 87 percent from the year-before two-month period, according to its director, Leon Valencia.

He said it counted nine hostile offensive actions out of a total of 41, with the rest

being defensive or resulting from unintentional contact with security forces.

Military officials said they were prohibited from providing numbers on combat or casualties during the two months.

The national ombudsman, Jorge Armando Otalora, said in a report Friday that there had been 57 attacks by rebels against civilians or security forces, an average of one per day.

One of them was an attack on a police post in the municipality of Guapi on Dec. 31 in which two police and four civilians were wounded.

The FARC is believed to number about 8,000 fighters, down from about twice that amount a decade ago. Colombia's U.S.-backed military dealt it a series of withering blows during that time, including killing three members of its ruling Secretariat.

Colombia's nearly half-century-old conflict has claimed tens of thousands of lives, most of them civilians. □



**Ivan Marquez, center, chief negotiator for Colombia's Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, accompanied by fellow negotiators Dutch rebel Tanja Nijmeijer, left, and Jesus Santrich, right, talks to the press before attending peace talks with negotiators from Colombia's government in Havana, Cuba, Sunday, Jan. 20, 2013.**

(AP Photo/Ismael Francisco)

## VP Maduro optimistic Chavez will soon return

**CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)**

— Venezuelan Vice President Nicolas Maduro said Sunday he's optimistic that Hugo Chavez will soon return to Venezuela following cancer-related surgery in Cuba. Maduro said that he and other government officials "are always optimistic that we are going to have the president here with us sooner rather than later," but he did not provide any more details about the possibility of Chavez's return during a televised interview. Chavez is "moving forward" with his recovery and he's eager "to see the fatherland to which he has



**Venezuela's Vice President Nicolas Maduro, center, speaks to students during the inauguration of a school in Barinas, Venezuela.**

(AP Photo/Miraflores Press Office)

dedicated his life," Maduro said.

Chavez has not spoken publicly or been seen since the Dec. 11 surgery in Cuba for an unspecified type of pelvic cancer.

The socialist leader's long absence has spurred much speculation regarding his health. Many opposition politicians argue Chavez, who was re-elected to a fresh 6-year term in October, is not fit to continue governing Venezuela. They note that Chavez missed a Jan. 10 swearing-in ceremony, prompting the government to organize a street rally. □





## Tuscany Residence unveils model condo on site!

**PALM BEACH** – A landmark in the life of Tuscany Residence was celebrated just recently when the sales gallery moved from its temporary location at the South Beach Centre to the actual site in the Noord area, the island's best neighborhood, just across the Ritz Carlton construction site, reports Project Manager, Reinier Kooi of Toscana Development NV. The new residential project under construction brings luxury Island living to a new level. Within the walls of the residence, 78 comfortable apartments, 65 interconnected villas and 10 detached villas are being built. The buildings vary greatly in layout, as the project

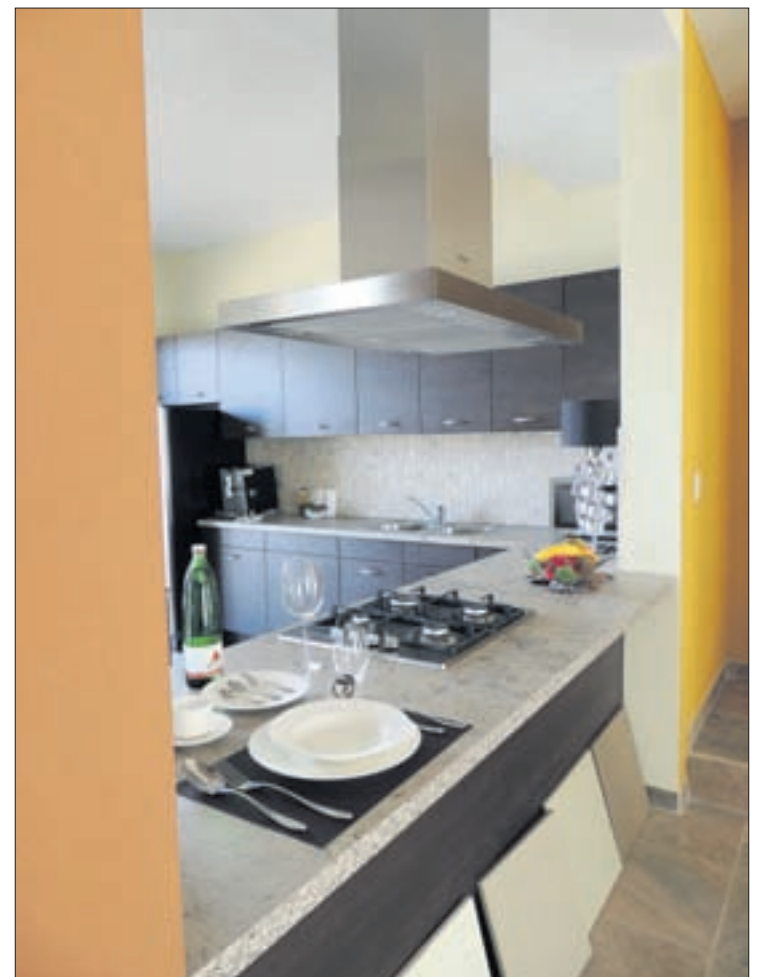
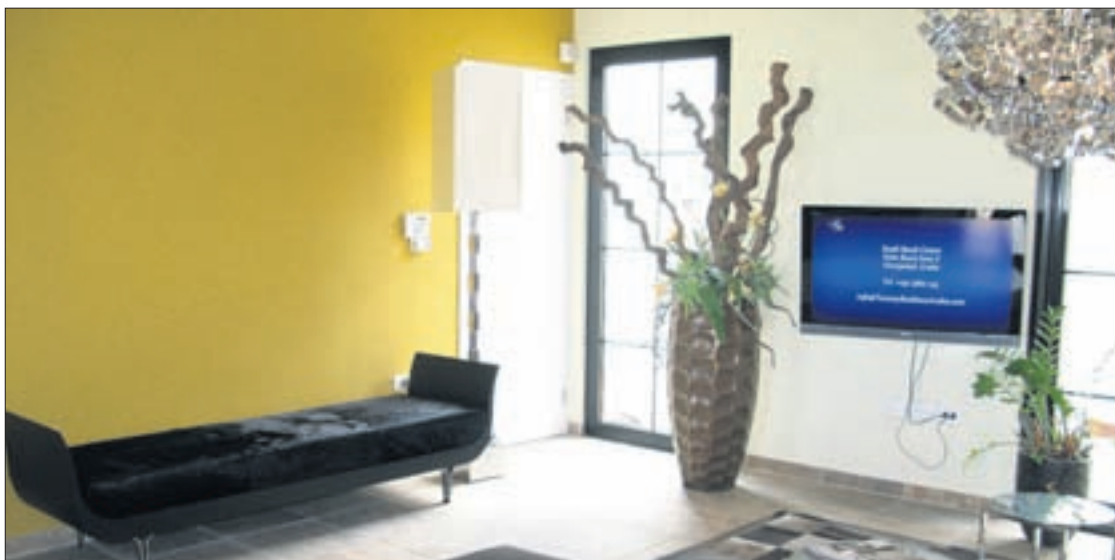
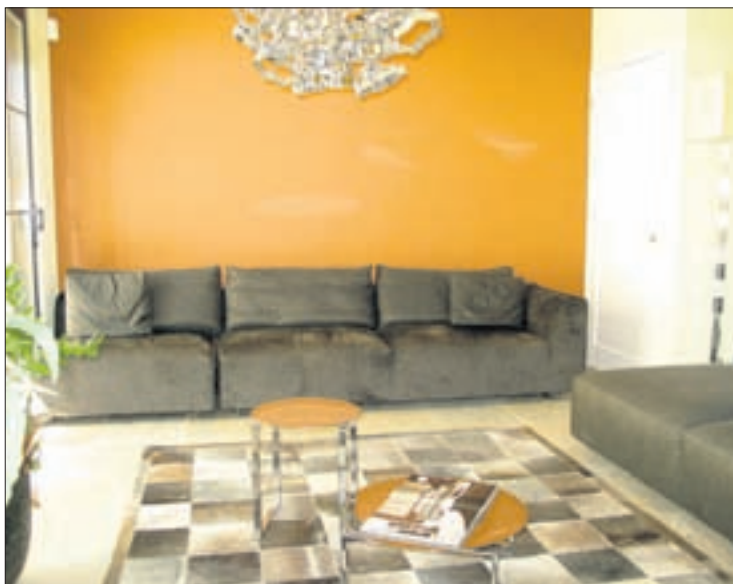
offers no less than twenty-four different models to choose from. Beautiful Italian architecture combined with tropical landscaping, will create a pleasant Mediterranean atmosphere in the residence, located just 600 meters from the beach, and adjacent to the Bakval neighborhood. Upscale European Alno kitchens and Banjolux bathrooms will carry that luxurious theme onto the interiors. Toscana Development NV invites you to visit Tuscany Residence to help you find the home that fits your lifestyle. Since groundbreaking, Tuscany Residence Aruba has enjoyed an unprecedented reception and indications are that



this trend will continue through the sell-out phase of the project. The project is currently fully fenced and two model houses completed. With all infrastructures for utilities in place and the terrain parceled and marked, Tuscany Residence is gearing up to the high-season of 2013. Visit the model condo, any day, seven days a week, just call for an appointment and free pick up, or ask your favorite broker to help get you there. Tuscany Residence

Aruba apartments and villas are offered at pre-construction prices, for a while longer, and while the world is recovering from the recent economic decline,

Aruba's real estate market continues to offer great investment opportunities to those prepared to take the plunge, and go ahead and live their dreams. □





## Exciting news from Tierra del Sol Resort, Spa and Country Club!

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## Report:

# Domestic violence high in 12 Latin and Caribbean countries

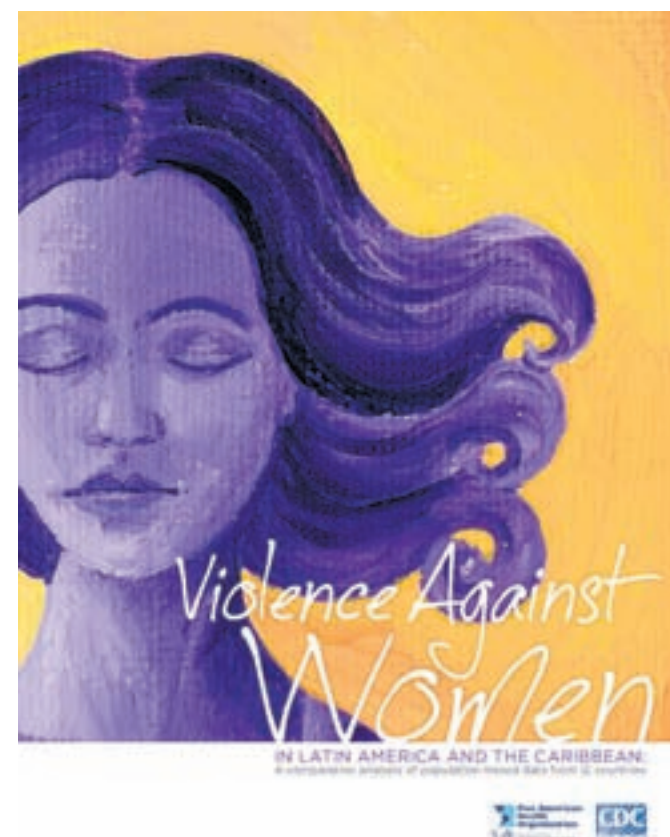
**- Partner violence occurs against women from all socioeconomic groups**

**ORANJESTAD/WASHINGTON** - A new report published by the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) in collaboration with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) shows that in 12 Latin American and Caribbean countries studied, between 17% and 53% of women interviewed reported having suffered

physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner. In seven of the countries, more than one in four women reported such violence.

The report, Violence Against Women in Latin America and the Caribbean: a comparative analysis of population-based data from 12 countries, shows that between 41% and 82% of women who were abused by their partner experienced a physical injury, ranging from cuts and

bruises to broken bones, miscarriages, and burns. Despite this, between 28% and 64% did not seek help or speak to anyone about their experience of violence. The comparative analysis also shows that between 10% and 27% of women in these countries reported having experienced sexual violence in their lifetime, either by partners or by other perpetrators, but usually by men whom they already knew. The report also highlights



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the intersections between violence against women and violence against children. Across the 12 countries studied, women who were beaten in childhood reported experiencing partner violence in adulthood at significantly higher rates than those who did not suffer violence in childhood.

"In addition to violating basic human rights, violence against women has serious consequences for the health of women and their children and impacts heavily on health services and health workers in the Region," said Dr. Mirta Rosés, PAHO's Director.

This is the first time that nationally representative data have been analyzed and presented in a single comparative format that allows a snapshot of what is known about violence against women in Latin America and the Caribbean. The 156-page report presents a comparative analysis of data from interviews with more than 180,000 women in Bolivia, Colombia, the Dominican

Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Paraguay, and Peru.

"It is our hope that this report will motivate decision-makers to invest more resources in implementing evidence-based strategies that will prevent violence against women from ever taking place," said Alessandra Guedes, PAHO Regional Advisor for Intra-family Violence and co-author of the report.

PAHO is the oldest international public health organization in the world. It works with its member countries to improve the health and the quality of life of the people of the Americas. It also serves as the Regional Office for the Americas of WHO.

Source: Violence Against Women in Latin America and the Caribbean: a comparative analysis of population-based data from 12 countries, by Sarah Bott, Alessandra Guedes, Mary Goodwin, and Jennifer Mendoza. [www.paho.org/violence](http://www.paho.org/violence).





Brian Gay poses with the Bob Hope Memorial Trophy after winning the Humana Challenge PGA golf tournament on the Palmer Private Course at PGA West, Sunday, Jan. 20, 2013, in La Quinta, Calif.

Associated Press

## Brian Gay captures Humana Challenge

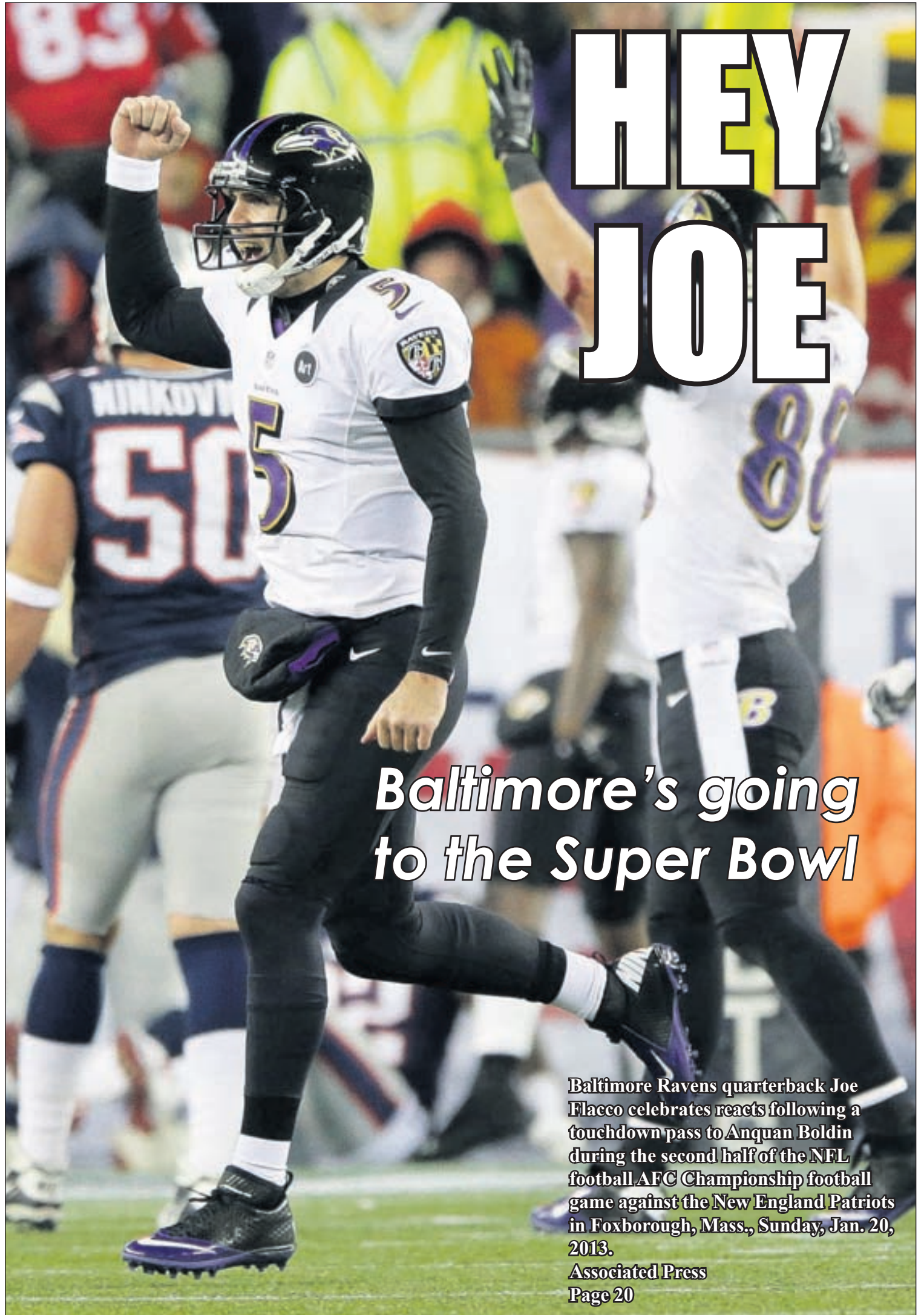
JOHN NICHOLSON  
AP Sports Writer

LA QUINTA, Calif. (AP) -- Brian Gay won the Humana Challenge on Sunday, beating Charles Howell III with a 5 1/2-foot birdie putt on the second hole of a playoff after front-running Scott Stallings gave away a large lead. Gay closed with a 9-under 63 on PGA West's Arnold Palmer Private Course to match Howell and Swedish rookie David Lingmerth at 25-under 263.

Howell shot a 64, and Lingmerth had a 62. Stallings, five strokes ahead entering the round, bogeyed the final hole for a 70 to miss the playoff by a stroke. The 41-year-old Gay began the round six strokes behind Stallings.

"The thoughts were, 'Just be aggressive, shoot as low as you can,'" Gay said. "I knew Scott was five ahead.

Continued on page 18



Baltimore Ravens quarterback Joe Flacco celebrates reacts following a touchdown pass to Anquan Boldin during the second half of the NFL football AFC Championship football game against the New England Patriots in Foxborough, Mass., Sunday, Jan. 20, 2013.

Associated Press  
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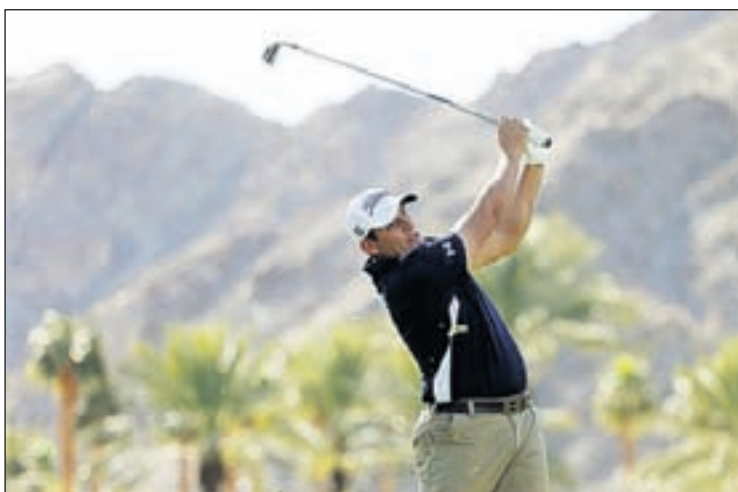
## Humana Challenge

Continued from page 17

"The thoughts were, 'Just be aggressive, shoot as low as you can,'" Gay said. "I knew Scott was five ahead. Even with a great round, a really low round, it would be tough to catch him, if at all. I played great on the front, just tried to stay aggressive and shoot low."

Gay and Howell opened the playoff with birdies on the par-5 18th, and Lingmerth dropped out with a bogey after hitting his approach into the left-side water.

Gay won on the par-4 10th, hitting a perfect drive and putting his 9-iron second shot in good position below the hole. Howell drove into the right rough, hit his second into the back bunker, blasted out to 15 feet and two-putted for bogey. "I'm still in a little bit of shock," Gay said. "It kind of happened so fast there



**Scott Stallings hits off the fifth tee during the final round of the Humana Challenge PGA golf tournament on the Palmer Private Course at PGA West, Sunday, Jan. 20, 2013, in La Quinta, Calif.**  
Associated Press

at the end the way things went down. Last year was a struggle. It was a long year, a lot of work. I just wanted to come out this year kind of refocused, recharged, and believing in myself."

Howell tied for second a week after opening the season with a third-place tie in Hawaii in the Sony Open.

He won the last of his two tour titles in 2007.

"Anybody that says that that golf is fun or whatever, has really not done it for a living," Howell said. "I would never characterize this as fun. It's different than that. It's awfully challenging mentally and the chances to win are what we want."

After birdieing nine of the first 13 holes, Gay finished regulation with five straight pars.

On the 18th, he missed

the green to the right and failed to hole an 8-foot birdie try.

"I felt like I gave one back with a par on 18 there," Gay said. "Was fortunate enough to feel like I had a second chance with two guys left that didn't birdie the hole. Kind of a second chance, if you will. I was happy to be in the playoff at that point."

Given that second chance, he outlasted Howell for his fourth PGA Tour title. He won the Verizon Heritage and St. Jude Classic in 2009 and the Mayakoba Golf Classic in 2008.

Playing in the second-to-last group, Howell had a chance to pull ahead on the final hole of regulation, but left his approach about 85 feet short and three-putted for par. His 5-foot birdie try made a sharp left turn inches from hole.

"Quite honestly, going into the day, I didn't really think that anybody had a chance apart from Scott," Howell said. "He's won before, he hits it long enough

to take advantage of the par 5s. At 22 under, I figured if he shoots 6, 7 under, he's really not catchable. So, then to have a chance there in regulation, that's where I really would like that one back, that three-putt there. But it happens and once you get a playoff, anything can happen."

Stallings hit a 315-yard drive on the 18th to set up a 6-iron approach from 220 yards. The ball landed in the left rough, bounced into rocks and finished in the water.

After a penalty drop, he chipped to 10 feet and missed his par try.

"I felt great. There wasn't any nerves or anything like that going into it," Stallings said. "Just hit a bad shot. Same thing that happened on 14. Felt like I made a good swing, just ball came off a little right and got a bad kick and went in the water."

"Coming down the stretch on the 72nd hole, you can't make mistakes like that. □

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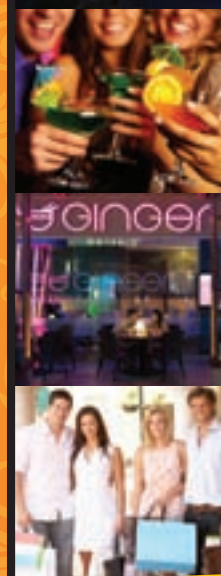
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## Fields scores 18 as Raptors beat struggling Lakers

By IAN HARRISON  
Associated Press

**TORONTO (AP)** - A worn-down Kobe Bryant called it a "sub-par" performance. For the Los Angeles Lakers, it was the latest in a string of similar efforts by a struggling team. Landry Fields had a season-high 18 points and 10 rebounds as the Toronto Raptors sent the Lakers to their fifth straight road loss, 108-103 on Sunday.

Bryant scored 26 points and Pau Gasol had 25 for the Lakers, whose road skid is their longest in six years. Dwight Howard was ejected after drawing his second technical foul with 1:18 left in the first half.

The Lakers fell behind by 15 points midway through the first quarter and lost for the eighth time in 10 games.

"We've got a lot of issues," coach Mike D'Antoni said. "Offensively the ball sticks and we don't take very good shots. Defensively, ups and downs, we forget guys."

Jose Calderon had 22 points and nine assists while Ed Davis had 18 points and eight rebounds for Toronto. Alan Anderson added 14 points and eight assists as the Raptors ended a four-game losing streak against the Lakers.

"That was one of the most complete games we've had all year, top to bottom," Raptors coach Dwane Casey said.

Bryant made 10 of 32 shots, including 3 of 12 on 3-pointers, and complained the "heavy legs" had dulled his shooting effort.

"I've just got to rest my legs," he said. "My legs are a little tired. My shots are just short. That's on me. I'll

take this loss on me, gladly. There were a lot of easy shots, a lot of them, that I should have put down.

"My offense was sub-par in terms of missing easy shots," he said. "I've got to do a better job of putting that ball in the hole when the opportunity presents itself." Steve Nash scored 16 points and Earl Clark had 14 points and 14 rebounds for the poor-shooting Lakers. "I didn't feel like we were ready to play," Nash said. "We cut too many corners at too many different times in the game and had too big a hole to climb out of. 'We're just not finding any consistent level out of our group,' he said.

Howard got his first technical for arguing after a missed jump shot with 4:43 left in the first quarter. The star center was tossed after he and Anderson were called on a double technical when they got tangled up after a free throw. Howard finished with five points in 17 minutes.

Howard left without speaking to reporters, but Bryant said he was upset by the costly ejection.

"I really don't agree with that one at all," Bryant said. "What's a player supposed to do? A guy cuts in front when he's trying to walk back up the court. An official told me he should just walk away. I said, 'Which direction? Should he just turn around a just walk to the bench?'"

Clark said Los Angeles struggled to defend the paint without Howard's presence inside.

"When he's gone, it's just a layup special," Clark said. Consecutive 3-pointers by Kyle Lowry and layups by

Terrence Ross and Anderson gave Toronto a 95-76 lead with 7:29 left, forcing the Lakers to call timeout. Los Angeles responded with a 3 by Nash and, after a layup by Fields, a pair of 3-pointers by Bryant and a layup by Antawn Jamison made it 97-87 with 5:22 remaining. □



Toronto Raptors' Landry Fields (2) and Amir Johnson (15) battles for the ball against Los Angeles Lakers' Pau Gasol (16) during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Jan. 20, 2013, in Toronto. The Raptors won 108-103.

Associated Press

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# Ravens upset Patriots 28-13 to make Super Bowl

By **BARRY WILNER**  
AP Pro Football Writer  
FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)

- Joe Flacco outdueled Tom Brady, throwing three touchdown passes in the second half and leading the Baltimore Ravens to their first Super Bowl in 12 years with a 28-13 victory over the New England Patriots on Sunday for the AFC championship.

The win sets up the first Super Bowl coached by brothers, Baltimore's John Harbaugh and San Francisco's Jim. The 49ers won the NFC title earlier Sunday 28-24 at Atlanta.

The 49ers have been listed as 5-point favorites.

Baltimore linebacker Ray Lewis' final season will conclude in two weeks in New Orleans; he was the MVP of the 2001 game, the Ravens' only Super Bowl win.

Flacco had two touchdown passes to Anquan Boldin and one to Dennis Pitta as the Ravens outscored the Patriots 21-0 in the second half. Baltimore's defense made Brady look ordinary and stymied the league's top offense. Brady was 67-0 at home when leading at



**Baltimore Ravens wide receiver Anquan Boldin (81) makes an 11-yard touchdown reception against New England Patriots free safety Devin McCourty during the second half of the NFL football AFC Championship football game in Foxborough, Mass., Sunday, Jan. 20, 2013.**

Associated Press

halftime.

Flacco's three touchdown passes came in just over 10 minutes in the second half. He connected with Boldin for two TDs in the first four

minutes of the fourth quarter - a 3-yarder and an 11-yarder - after hitting Pitta with a 5-yard strike with 6:14 left in the third.

The Ravens (13-6) gained

just 130 yards in the first half before Flacco guided them on scoring drives of 87 and 63 yards.

New England (13-5) suffered three injuries in the first half. Cornerback Aqib Talib hurt his thigh and defensive tackle Kyle Love injured his knee. The return of both starters was questionable. Backup safety Patrick Chung was helped off the field after one play.

The Patriots played without tight end Rob Gronkowski, who broke his left arm a week earlier in their 41-28 divisional win over the Houston Texans.

Stephen Gostkowski had given the Patriots a 3-0 lead with a 31-yard field goal with 6:21 left in the first quarter. But the Ravens went ahead on Ray Rice's 2-yard touchdown run with 9:28 to go in the second.

Wes Welker then scored with just over 4 minutes remaining in the half on a 1-yard pass from Brady and the Patriots increased their lead on Gostkowski's 25-yard field goal on the final play before intermission.

New England outgained Baltimore 214 yards to 130

in the half. Brady completed 14 of 24 passes for 139 yards, while Flacco went 6 for 12 for 81 yards. Neither team committed a turnover.

The scoring pass to Boldin ended a drive on which Flacco completed five of six passes, the longest a 23-yarder to Torrey Smith.

The touchdown by Pitta capped the Ravens' best drive of the game, covering 87 yards in 10 plays. It started with a 15-yard defensive pass interference penalty. Then, Flacco completed six of his other nine passes on the series. Three of them went for first downs - 22 yards to Pitta, 15 to Rice and 12 to Boldin that gave the Ravens a first-and-goal at the Patriots 10-yard line. Flacco then connected with Pitta for a 5-yard pass and finished the drive with another 5-yarder to Pitta, who easily beat single coverage by safety Steve Gregory.

The Patriots began the scoring on Gostkowski's kick, ending a 13-play, 67-yard drive during which Brady completed five of seven passes for 55 yards. □

## NFL Roundup

# 49ers head to Super Bowl, beating Falcons 28-24

PAUL NEWBERRY  
AP Sports Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — San Francisco reached the Super Bowl for the first time since 1995 on Sunday after Frank Gore ran for a pair of second-half touchdowns as the 49ers rebounded from a 17-0 deficit to beat the Atlanta Falcons 28-24 in the NFC championship game.

The top-seeded Falcons (14-4) tried to pull out another season-saving drive at the end, but Matt Ryan's fourth-down pass for Roddy White with 1:13 remaining was knocked down by San Francisco linebacker NaVorro Bowman.

The 49ers (13-4-1) will meet

the winner of the AFC title game between New England and Baltimore. San Francisco will be trying to join Pittsburgh as the only teams with six Super Bowl championships.

The victory was sweet redemption for the 49ers, who lost an overtime thriller to the New York Giants a year ago in the NFC title game.

The 49ers pulled off the biggest comeback victory in an NFC championship game, according to STATS. The previous NFC record was 13 points — Atlanta's victory over Minnesota in the 1999 title game, which sent the Falcons to what remains the only Super Bowl in franchise history.

In the AFC, the record is 18 points, when Indianapolis rallied past New England in 2007.

Gore's 9-yard run midway through the fourth quarter completed the comeback from a 17-0 first-half deficit. The run came at the end of a short 38-yard drive set up by Ted Ginn Jr.'s 20-yard punt return.

Gore had a 5-yard touchdown run to cap an 82-yard drive to open the second half.

The high-scoring pace of the first half continued as the 49ers began their run of points. Colin Kaepernick had passes of 21 and 17 yards to Randy Moss in the drive. The 17-yarder moved the 49ers to the Falcons 5,



**San Francisco 49ers' LaMichael James (23) gets away from Atlanta Falcons' Stephen Nicholas (54) for a 15-yard touchdown run during the first half of the NFL football NFC Championship game Sunday, Jan. 20, 2013, in Atlanta.**


Associated Press

setting up Gore's scoring run.

Matt Ryan threw three touchdown passes in the

first half, including a 10-yard toss to Tony Gonzalez with 25 seconds remaining in the half. □





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## Australian Open

# Djokovic holds off Wawrinka; Sharapova advances

JOHN PYE

AP Sports Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

— Novak Djokovic held off a valiant Swiss player for a 5-hour, five-set victory Sunday night, extending his winning streak to 18 matches at the Australian Open and then ripping off his shirt to celebrate.

The big surprise: It was a fourth-round match against Stanislas Wawrinka of Switzerland, not a final against Roger Federer.

Djokovic edged the 15th-seeded Wawrinka 1-6, 7-5, 6-4, 6-7 (5), 12-10 in a momentum-swinging marathon, cashing in on his third match point to reach the quarterfinals for a 15th consecutive major tournament. The style was reminiscent of his 5-hour, 53-minute final win here last year against Rafael Nadal.

"He deserved equally to be a winner of this match," said Djokovic, who is aiming to be the first man in the Open era to win three consecutive Australian titles. "I give him a lot of credit. He has all my respect. He was the aggressive player on the court. I was just hanging in there trying to fight." Djokovic had beaten Wawrinka — the perennial No. 2 among Swiss tennis players to 17-time major winner Federer — in their 10 previous matches. He hadn't lost a head-to-head since 2006 and had won 11 straight sets between them.

The win "brings back the memories from 12 months ago with Rafa," he said. "We are midway through the tournament but it feels like a final to me."

Djokovic next faces Tomas Berdych, the 2010 Wimbledon finalist who advanced with a 6-3, 6-2, 7-6 (13) win



Serbia's Novak Djokovic celebrates his fourth round win over Switzerland's Stanislas Wawrinka at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Sunday, Jan. 20, 2013.

Associated Press

over South Africa's Kevin Anderson.

Wawrinka was cramping and needed massages on both legs at the changeovers in the fifth set. Late in the match, he was pulling his foot up behind him to stretch his thighs between points. He was so tired he decided not to challenge a decision on a call that went against him — wrongly, according to TV replays. But he didn't think it made a difference in the end.

"In five sets, five hours, you always have some opportunity to win a set or to win the match," he said. "If you don't take it, he's going to take it."

"It's by far my best match I ever play, especially in five sets against the No. 1 player ... full house. At the end I was really, really close. For sure I'm really sad. ... But I think there is more positive than negative."

Fourth-seeded David Ferrer won 6-2, 6-1, 6-4 over No. 16 Kei Nishikori of Japan to set up an all-Spanish quarterfinal against Nicolas Pietrangeli, who was leading

6-2, 5-1 when No. 8 Janko Tipsaveric retired from their fourth-round match.

Maria Sharapova has had almost no trouble on the women's side, beating Kirsten Flipkens of Belgium 6-1, 6-0 earlier Sunday to continue a dominant and unparalleled run in Melbourne.

The late-finishing men's match almost changed the complexion of the tournament.

Critics who questioned if anybody could challenge Djokovic, Federer and U.S. Open champion Andy Murray in the absence of Nadal at this tournament got an answer quickly.

Wawrinka stunned the top-ranked Djokovic with three service breaks in the first set and led 5-2 in the second before the 25-year-old Serb rallied by winning six consecutive games. But just as Djokovic seemed to be taking control, Wawrinka launched his own comeback to win a long tiebreaker and force a fifth set.

Djokovic got to serve first in

the fifth, giving him a psychological edge as long

as he held his serve. In the end, Wawrinka didn't quite have the big-time experience.

Wawrinka had game point in the 22nd game but let Djokovic get on a roll. He saved his first match point with a service winner, then saved another.

At 1:40 a.m. local time, Wawrinka was whacking his head with the racket and biting the ball after giving Djokovic another match point. Moments later, he was slumped on the court.

Djokovic raised both arms, walked to the net and embraced his beaten rival, then pulled off his shirt and flexed — shades of the 2012 final. □

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## Testing brain pacemakers to zap Alzheimer's damage

**LAURAN NEERGAARD**

**AP Medical Writer**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — It has the makings of a science fiction movie: Zap someone's brain with mild jolts of electricity to try to stave off the creeping memory loss of Alzheimer's disease.

And it's not easy. Holes are drilled into the patient's skull so tiny wires can be implanted into just the right spot.

A dramatic shift is beginning in the disappointing struggle to find something to slow the damage of this epidemic: The first U.S. experiments with "brain pacemakers" for Alzheimer's are getting under way. Scientists are looking beyond drugs to implants in the hunt for much-needed new treatments.

The research is in its infancy. Only a few dozen people with early-stage Alzheimer's will be implanted in a handful of hospitals. No one knows if it might work, and if it does, how long the effects might last.

Kathy Sanford was among the first to sign up. Her early-stage Alzheimer's was gradually getting worse. She still lived independently, posting reminders to herself, but no longer could work.

The usual medicines weren't helping.

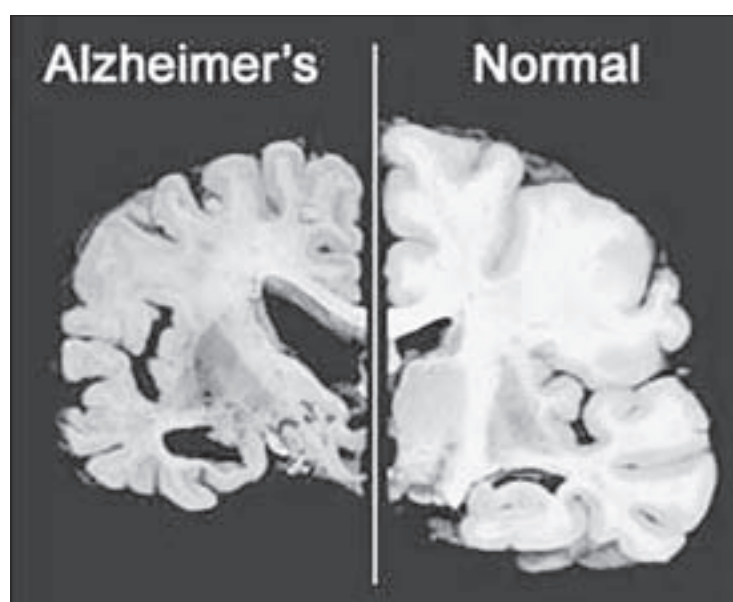
Then doctors at Ohio State University explained the hope — that constant electrical stimulation of brain circuits involved in memory and thinking might keep those neural networks active for longer, essentially bypassing some of dementia's damage. Sanford decided it was worth a try.

"The reason I'm doing it is, it's really hard to not be able, sometimes, to remember," Sanford, 57, said.



**Dr. Doug Scharre, left, and Dr. Punit Agrawal, center, prepare Kathleen Sanford's deep brain stimulation device for monitoring Monday, Dec. 17, 2012, in Columbus, Ohio. Sanford is an Alzheimer's patient that has a deep brain stimulation implant as part of a study at Ohio State University. In small experiments, scientists are implanting pacemaker-like devices deep in the brains of some people with early-stage Alzheimer's in hopes of slowing the disease's damage. The tiny wires send mild jolts of electricity to stimulate the brain.**

**Associated Press**



**This undated file image provided by Merck & Co., shows a cross section of a normal brain, right, and one of a brain damaged by advanced Alzheimer's disease.**

**Associated Press**

Her father was blunter. "What's our choice? To participate in a program or sit here and watch her slowly deteriorate?" asked Joe Jester, 78.

A few months after the five-hour operation, the hair shaved for her brain surgery was growing back

and Sanford said she felt good, with an occasional tingling that she attributes to the electrodes. A battery-powered generator near her collarbone powers them, sending the tiny shocks up her neck and into her brain.

It's too soon to know how

she'll fare; scientists will track her for two years.

"This is an ongoing evaluation right now that we are optimistic about," is how Ohio State neurosurgeon Dr. Ali Rezai cautiously puts it.

More than 5 million Americans have Alzheimer's or similar dementias, and that number is expected to rise rapidly as the baby boomer generation ages. Today's drugs only temporarily help some symptoms. Attempts to attack Alzheimer's presumed cause, a brain-clogging material, so far haven't worked.

"We're getting tired of not having other things work," said Ohio State neurologist Dr. Douglas Scharre.

The new approach is called deep brain stimulation, or DBS. While it won't attack Alzheimer's root cause either, "maybe we can make the brain work better," he said.

Implanting electrodes into the brain isn't new.

Between 85,000 and 100,000 people around the world have had DBS to block the tremors of Parkinson's disease and other movement disorders. The continuous jolts quiet overactive nerve cells, with few side effects.

Scientists also are testing whether stimulating other parts of the brain might help lift depression or curb appetite among the obese.

It was in one of those experiments that Canadian researchers back in 2003 stumbled onto the Alzheimer's possibility.

They switched on the electrical jolts in the brain of an obese man and unlocked a flood of old memories. Continuing his DBS also improved his ability to learn. He didn't have dementia, but the researchers wondered if they could spur memory-making networks in someone who did.

But wait a minute. Alzheimer's doesn't just steal memories. It eventually robs sufferers of the ability to do the simplest of tasks.

How could stimulating a brain so damaged do any good?

A healthy brain is a connected brain. One circuit signals another to switch on and retrieve the memories needed to, say, drive a car or cook a meal.

At least early in the disease, Alzheimer's kills only certain spots.

But the disease's hallmark plaques act as a roadblock, stopping the "on" switch so that healthy circuits farther away are deactivated, explained Dr. Andres Lozano, a neurosurgeon at Toronto Western Hospital whose research sparked the interest. □



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## Aviation technology advances, US tries to keep up

DAVID KOENIG  
AP Airlines Writer

**DALLAS (AP)** — The battery that caught fire in a Japan Airlines 787 in Boston last week was not over-charged, but U.S. investigators said Sunday there could still be problems with wiring or other charging components.

An examination of the flight data recorder indicated that the battery didn't exceed its designed voltage of 32 volts, the National Transportation Safety Board said in a statement. But NTSB investigators are continuing to look at the battery system. They plan to meet Tuesday with officials from Securaplane Technologies Inc., manufacturer of the charger for the 787s lithium ion batteries, at the company's headquarters in Arizona, said Kelly Nantel, a spokeswoman for the board.

"Potentially there could be some other charging issue," Nantel said. "We're not prepared to say there was no charging issue."

The unfolding saga of Boeing's highest-profile plane has raised new questions about federal oversight of aircraft makers and airlines. After two separate and serious battery problems, it wasn't U.S. authorities who acted first to ground the plane. It was Japanese airlines.

Some aviation experts question the ability of the Federal Aviation Administration to keep up with changes in the way planes are being made today — both the technological advances and the use of multiple suppliers from around the globe. Others



**In this Jan. 17, 2013 file photo, a line of 787 jets are parked at Paine Field in Everett, Wash. After two separate and serious battery problems aboard Boeing 787s, it wasn't U.S. authorities who acted first to ground the plane. It was Japanese airlines. The unfolding saga of Boeing's highest-profile plane has raised new questions about federal oversight of aircraft makers and airlines.**

Associated Press

question whether regulators are too cozy with aircraft manufacturers.

A week ago, FAA Administrator Michael Huerta and Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood endorsed the Dreamliner's safety even as they ordered a new review of its design and construction following the fire in a lithium-ion battery on the 787 that had landed in Boston.

But on Wednesday, after a battery malfunction on a second plane resulted in an emergency landing, they grounded Dreamliner flights in the U.S.

The Dreamliner is the first airliner whose structure is made mostly from composite materials rather than aluminum. The plane relies more than previous airliners on electrical systems rather than hydraulic or mechanical ones, and it's the first airliner to make extensive use of lithium-ion batteries to power cabin-pressurization and other key functions.

Such technological ad-

vances may force the FAA to re-examine the way it does its job.

"We've gone from aviation to aerospace products that are much more complex," said Richard Aboulafia, an aviation analyst with the Teal Group. "The FAA is equipped for aviation. Aerospace is another matter."

Former NTSB board member Kitty Higgins said the FAA must consider whether changes in its certification process would have turned up the problems in the Dreamliner battery systems.

"They need to make sure the certification process stays current with the industry and the new technology," she said.

Too much current flowing too fast into a battery can overwhelm the battery, causing it to short-circuit and overheat even if the battery's voltage remains within its design limit, said John Goglia, a former NTSB board member and aviation safety expert.

in the battery or whether it was induced by battery charging."

Despite their concerns, many safety experts still believe that the current regulatory process works. The 787s were grounded before any accidents occurred.

An FAA spokeswoman declined to comment for this article, referring instead to statements made during a news conference last week.

Officials said then that the review of the 787 wouldn't be limited to the Dreamliner's batteries.

Huerta said that the agency would "make sure that the approved quality control procedures are in place and that all of the necessary oversight is done."

The FAA has said that its technical experts logged 200,000 hours testing and reviewing the plane's design before certifying the plane in August 2011. Boeing defended the process and the plane. □

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# Growth slows, markets feeling good ahead of Davos

**DAVID McHUGH**  
AP Business Writer

**FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)** —

The world's financial and political elite will head this week to the Alps for 2013's gathering of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, with the global economy far less plagued by fear than it was last year.

Much-feared worldwide panics from a collapse of the euro currency union have been avoided. China appears likely to remain an engine of global growth. Stocks are off to a running start in the New Year.

"There's a sense of relief that the worst didn't happen ... and I think that relief is probably justified," said Nariman Behravesh, chief economist at IHS Global Insight.

Davos is the venue for the World Economic Forum, an annual gathering of more than 2,000 decision-makers from nearly 100 countries and hundreds of companies that starts Wednesday. The WEF has taken "Resilient Dynamism" as the theme for this year's event.

Yet the global economy is expected to remain sluggish in 2013, with two of the biggest economies — the euro alliance and Japan — in recession. There's also a risk that the United States, the world's largest economy, may slash government

spending — a step that could dampen the world economy. Few think global economic growth will even match last year's tepid 3.3 percent.

Despite that, as fear of a catastrophe has eased, optimism appears to have taken hold among investors. The world's financial markets have surged. Both the U.S. Standard & Poor's 500 and Europe's STOXX 600 have risen 13.5 percent in the past 12 months.

Fueling much of the improvement has been a flood of monetary expansion from the world's central banks. The U.S. Federal Reserve, the Bank of England, the Bank of Japan and the Swiss National Bank have purchased financial assets such as bonds with newly created money. The central banks have also slashed short-term interest rates to record lows — to near zero in the case of the Fed. The ECB has lent more than €1 trillion to banks at low rates.

The European Central Bank gave the eurozone its biggest boost when it offered last fall to buy unlimited debt of heavily indebted countries such as Spain and Italy. That action lowered their borrowing costs and eased fears that those governments would default. Fears that the group of 17 European countries that use the euro

would break up under the weight of its debt crisis faded throughout 2012. One factor bolstering the eurozone was the deal struck between Europe and the

As interest rates have dropped, investors have shifted money into stocks, real estate and other assets, driving up their prices. One of the biggest mar-

bonds sold by U.S. companies with subpar credit ratings — so-called junk bonds — have fallen.

Some pillars of the U.S. economy, like the housing, banking and auto sectors, have been gradually yet steadily recovering from the American recession, which officially ended 3½ years ago. And relief was widely felt at the end of 2012, when President Barack Obama and the U.S. Congress cut a deal on tax rates and delayed the "fiscal cliff" of automatic cuts and tax increases.

Worries that China, the world's No. 2 economy, would suffer a sudden slowdown proved unfounded as the country's new Communist leadership appeared to signal its commitment to growth policies. Its leaders are trying to reduce China's reliance on exports by encouraging Chinese consumers to spend more at home.

Analysts caution that the still-sluggish global economy has little room for error. IHS Global Insight predicts the worldwide economy will expand just 2.5 percent in 2013, even less than last year's estimated 2.6 percent. In the United States, unemployment remains elevated at 7.8 percent. U.S. employers have held back on hiring and pay raises.

"There's lots of potential bad macroeconomic news," said Rabobank analyst Jane Foley. "And yet market sentiment seems to be very gung-ho."

Among the risk factors analysts cite:

—The heavy government debt loads in the eurozone, the chief concern from 2012, remain in place. Many worry that European leaders, facing citizen anger over government spending cuts in the midst of recession, will be reluctant to reduce debt and strengthen oversight of their banking system.

—A dispute in the United States over raising the government's debt ceiling, and dealing with automatic spending cuts, has only been postponed until early March. □



**German Klaus Schwab, founder and president of the World Economic Forum, WEF, gestures during a press conference, in Cologne near Geneva, Switzerland, Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2013. The World Economic Forum today unveiled the programme for its Annual Meeting in Davos, Switzerland, including the key participants, themes and goals. The Meeting, will take place from Jan. 23 to Jan. 27, 2013.**

(AP Photo/Laurent Gillieron)

International Monetary Fund to stop Greece from being forced to default on its debts and abandon the euro.

ket jumps in 2012 came in Greece's own Athens stock exchange, where stocks catapulted 33 percent. Even the yields on

## Economic reports for the week ahead:

### © 2013 New York Times ECONOMIC REPORTS:

Financial markets, government offices and many businesses will be closed Monday in the United States in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Data will include sales of existing homes for December (Tuesday); weekly jobless claims and leading economic indicators for December (Thursday); and sales of new homes for December (Friday).

### CORPORATE EARNINGS:

Delta Air Lines, DuPont, Johnson & Johnson, TD Ameritrade, Verizon Com-

munications, Advanced Micro Devices, Google, IBM, Texas Instruments (Tuesday); Abbott Laboratories, General Dynamics, McDonald's, United Technologies, US Airways, Well Point, Amgen, Apple, Netflix (Wednesday); 3M, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Lockheed Martin, Raytheon, Southwest Airlines, Xerox, AT&T, E(AST)Trade Financial, Microsoft, Starbucks, United Continental (Thursday); Honeywell, Kimberly-Clark, Procter & Gamble, Weyerhaeuser (Friday).

### IN THE UNITED STATES:

The International Trade Commission is scheduled to announce in Washington whether it will review or let stand a judge's finding that Samsung Electronics infringed four Apple patents (Wednesday). Treasury Secretary Timothy F. Geithner steps down (Friday).

### IN EUROPE:

Eurozone finance ministers will meet to discuss details of a banking union (Monday). The Bank of Japan is expected to set an inflation target at the conclusion of its policy-setting meeting; European Union finance ministers will meet to discuss

a plan to design a financial-transaction tax; and Mario Draghi, president of the European Central Bank, is to speak in Frankfurt, Germany (Tuesday). The International Monetary Fund issues an update to its World Economic Outlook; the Bank of Canada issues an interest rate decision and quarterly economic forecast; and the World Economic Forum's annual meeting begins in Davos, Switzerland (Wednesday). EU lawmakers meet in Brussels to discuss changing an emissions-trading law that will reduce the number of permits (Thursday). □



## Wall Street Week Ahead :

# What to watch for as U.S. earnings news rolls in

**DANIEL WAGNER**  
AP Business Writer

With fourth-quarter earnings season hitting its stride, investors are returning to the familiar comfort of cold, hard numbers — the press releases, conference calls and spreadsheets that provide a real view of corporate America's performance.

Trading has been dominated for months by speculation about news events: Washington's perpetual state of gridlock, the impact of Superstorm Sandy on the Northeast, the international economic slowdown. Earnings give professional market watchers something tangible to analyze.

"A lot of people like to trade around earnings because there are a lot of short-term opportunities there," says Randy Frederick, managing director of active trading and derivatives at Charles Schwab. "We're just starting to get into earnings in a big way this week, so there are plenty of ways to do that." This week will bring answers to questions that have hung over the market for months: Will slower growth in China put a dent in big U.S. companies' income? Will new housing numbers come in strong enough to keep homebuilders flying high? How much did Super-

storm Sandy cost big insurers?

Here's a guide to some of the big stories that professional investors will be watching as the earnings news arrives:

— **THE CHINA QUESTION:** Big U.S. companies are increasingly reliant on sales to China, and growth there appears to be slowing. This round of earnings will shed

light on how hard the slowdown is hitting American companies. The messages so far are mixed. When Alcoa announced its results on Jan. 8, executives said they expect sales to grow by 7 to 10 percent in 2013, thanks to "the wealthier middle class" and "the general uptick in the Chinese economy."

Announcing its fiscal second-quarter results last month, however, Nike said China was the only region where revenue declined. Executives said they expect lower income from China in the coming quarters as they work to build a strategy around Chinese consumers.

"You've got to look at what these companies are see-

In 2011, 3M generated 41 percent of its operating income in the Asia Pacific region, compared with 26 percent in the U.S. McDonald's generated 22 percent of its revenue in the region that includes Asia, compared with 32 percent in the U.S.

— **HOUSING RALLY: HOW LONG?** The government said Thursday that U.S. builders started work on homes in December at the fastest pace in 4 ½ years, and that last year was the best year for residential construction since the early stages of the housing crisis. It was the latest announcement to lift homebuilder stocks, which have been rising as evidence mounts that the housing market has finally regained some momentum. Homebuilders in the Standard & Poor's 500 index have shot up 23 percent since their recent low on Nov. 14. Already this month, seven homebuilders have hit 52-week highs on heavy trading volume. Yet some have been reluctant to trust the turnaround. In an earnings call with analysts last week, Citigroup Chief Financial Officer John Gerspach said his bank won't start to release billions in reserves held against mortgage losses until it's clear that the trend is sustainable.

This week brings more data

on sales of new and existing homes in December. If the numbers look weak, analysts say, homebuilder stocks may appear overbid and the rally may pause until earnings results arrive from big players like D.R. Horton Inc. (Jan. 29) and PulteGroup Inc. (Jan. 31).

— **HOW SUPER, STORM SANDY?** Superstorm Sandy had broad, negative economic effects, like keeping holiday shoppers home and wiping out disposable income. But its most direct impact was on insurers. Risk modeling firm AIR Worldwide says storm-related losses covered by insurers could total \$16 billion to \$22 billion.

This quarter's earnings will give traders their first look at how hard Sandy hit the major property and casualty insurance companies. Analysts have been reducing their expectations for the financial industry's performance mainly because of insurers, Butters said.

Reporting on Friday, auto insurer Progressive Corp. said Sandy cost it about \$15 million in December, contributing to a decline in net income of 3 percent from the same quarter a year earlier.

The Travelers Cos. Inc., one of the 30 stocks in the Dow Jones industrial average, reports its results on Tuesday. □



Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. This week on Wall Street is poised to bring answers to questions that have hung over the market for months.

(AP Photo/Mary Altaffer)

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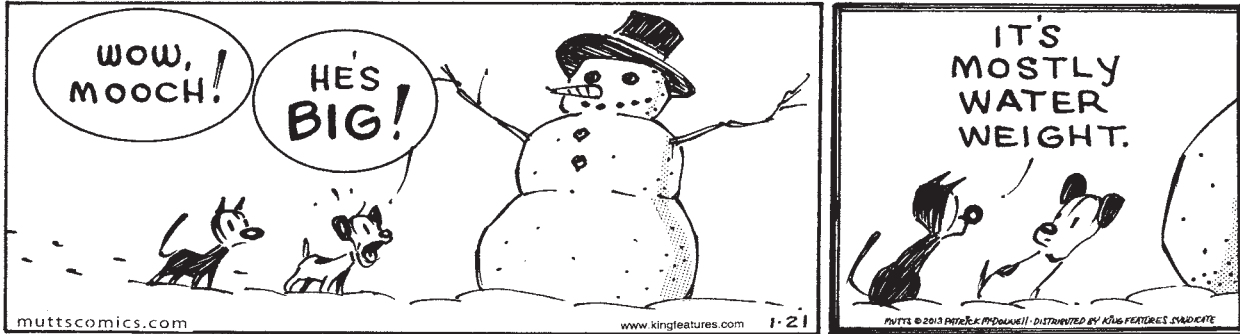
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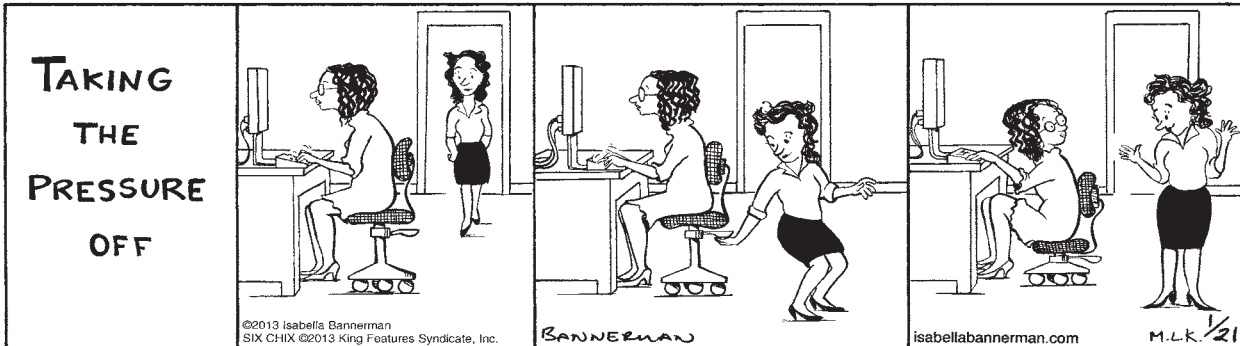




Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



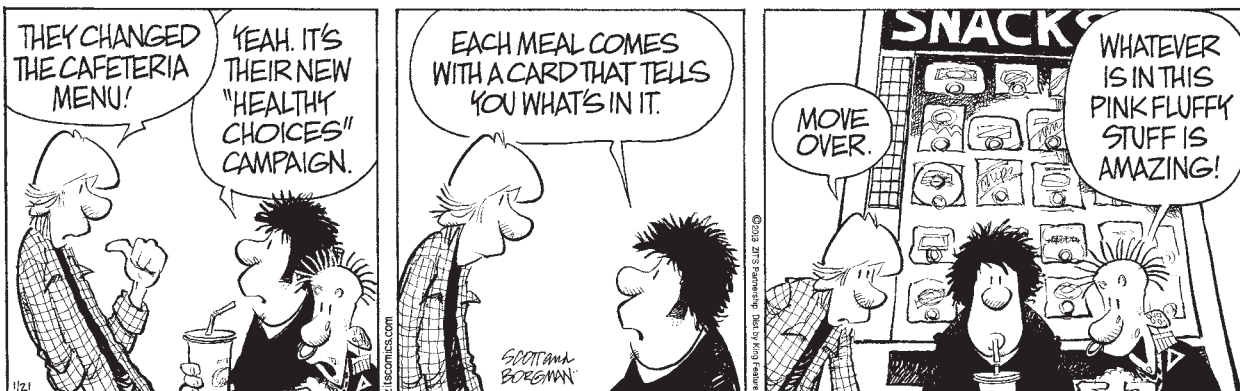
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

7						3	1
1		4	2	9	3		
		8				6	2
	2		4	7		5	
	4					7	
	3		6	1		9	
	7	6				3	
			7	3	4	8	2
4	8						5

Difficulty Level ★

1/21

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

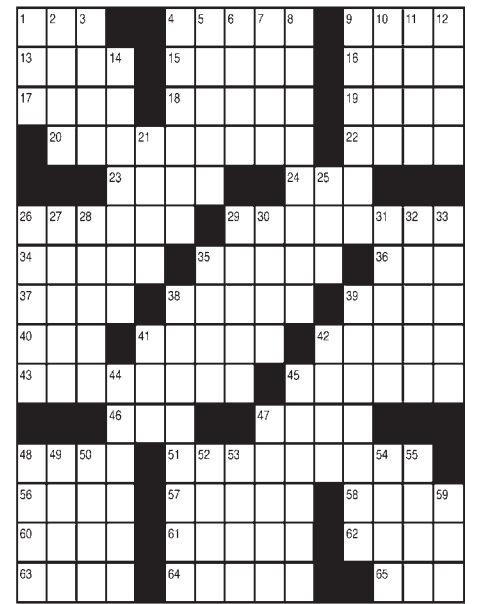
4	7	3	2	5	9	6	1	8
9	5	8	1	6	7	3	4	2
1	6	2	8	3	4	5	7	9
8	4	1	9	7	5	2	3	6
6	3	9	4	8	2	1	5	7
7	2	5	3	1	6	8	9	4
5	9	4	6	2	1	7	8	3
3	1	6	7	4	8	9	2	5
2	8	7	5	9	3	4	6	1

ACROSS

- Luau garland
- Move over
- Pledge
- Puts two and two together
- Treasure cache
- Urgent request
- Bundle of hay
- Levels, as a building
- Small fruit pie
- Glee
- Hampton and Holiday
- Black-and-white diving birds
- Long \_\_\_\_ in the distant past
- Go by, as time
- Amaze
- Father children
- Aviator
- Twosome
- Prohibits
- Lowest point
- Meadows
- Actress Arden
- Smoothed nails
- Use a loom
- Abandoned
- Long guns
- In favor of
- Lean
- Restaurant cook
- Insulting
- Elvis' "\_\_\_\_ Me Tender"
- Clutches
- \_\_\_\_ up; absorb
- Heroic tale
- Spooky
- "A \_\_\_\_ of Two Cities"
- Fez fabric
- Requirements
- Dobbin's dinner

DOWN

- Medium-sized retriever, for short
- Cheese sold in red wax
- Doing nothing
- Bowler's delight
- Assisted
- Glided easily
- Just right
- Smooth and sophisticated
- Rubber tubes
- Lose color
- Moorehead
- Liberal
- To and \_\_\_\_
- Untamed
- Side \_\_\_\_
- additional result
- Douses
- Lukewarm



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

1/21/13

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

HELP	GLADE	PAIL
EVIL	ROPER	RILE
MEMO	ASTER	IDAS
PROWESS	JERSEYS	
	MAS	RADIO
ALTAR	KEY	GNOME
FLAN	OIL	SISTER
TAT	ANTACID	TOO
EMERGE	PAR	HEWS
RARER	ASP	TERSE
	SEIZE	BEA
RIVIERA	HUDDLES	
ICES	OLDER	SIDE
DONT	NEARS	EVEN
ENDS	SABOT	TEND

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1/21/13

- Gas in our atmosphere
- Treble \_\_\_\_; musical symbol
- Optimism
- Corrupt
- On the house
- Blaze
- Ark builder
- Celebration
- Door opener
- Liberal
- To and \_\_\_\_
- Untamed
- Side \_\_\_\_
- additional result
- Douses
- Lukewarm



## Small Oil spill reported in the Bahamas

**NASSAU, Bahamas (AP)** — Crews are trying to contain roughly 1,000 gallons (3,785 liters) of oil that spilled into the Atlantic off the northernmost island in the Bahamas, according to the owner of a salvage company in the archipelago.

Raymond Darville of Overseas Marine Group Ltd. said the spill occurred early Sunday near an oil and gas storage facility in Freeport Harbor on Grand Bahama island. Darville said he does not know exactly how the spill occurred. But a ship was trying to refuel alongside a barge at the time an oily sheen began to spread near the mouth of the harbor, he said.

Kenrid Dorsett, the country's environment minister, confirmed that there was an accident of some sort, but could not comment on its cause or estimate how much fuel spilled. □

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19802A

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198509

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19802B

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grandfloor right on the beach  
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198386

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wk 4 - 2 br \$4000  
wk 5 - 1 br \$6000  
732-2788  
info@arubadirectdeals.com

198513

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2 Bedroom- ocean pool view  
week 2&3 \$8500 per week  
week 2 one bedroom ocean and pool view \$5000  
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e-mail:jpenn34769@aol.com  
after jan. 19 call. 920-7882750

198395A

### FOR RENT

#### Paradise Beach Villas 2014

2 Bedroom- ocean pool view  
week 2&3 \$1200 per week  
week 2 one bedroom pool ocean view \$1000 per week  
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e-mail:jpenn34769@aol.com  
after jan. 19 call. 920-7882750

198395

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\$8500 call: 562-0712  
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

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198169

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198397

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198153

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198362

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#### Casa del Mar

Rm 1117 Presidential Suite  
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until 1/26/13  
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E-mail: roberta.ambrose@att.net

198362

### CASA DEL MAR

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Casa del Mar 2 br 2 ba pool/ocean side Rm 1318 wk 3 \$22K

198359

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[calhop@yahoo.com](mailto:calhop@yahoo.com)

198394



### DOCTOR ON DUTY ORANJESTAD

**21 January**  
Dr. Sneek

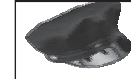


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Police	581-1100
Oranjestad	582-4000
Noord	587-0009
Sta. Cruz	585-4710
Savaneta	584-7000
San Nicolas	584-5000

### Emergency Numbers



Emergency	911
Police	100
Fire Dept.	115
Fire Dept. II	582-1108
Police Tipline	11141
Hospital	527-4000

### Oranjestad

Ambulance	582-1234
Police	582-4000

### San Nicolas

Ambulance	584-5050
Police Station	584-5000
BGD San Nicolas	584-1606
Valero Security	584-1720

### Services

Information	118
Setar	582-5151
Taxi	582-2116
Taxi- Tas	587-5900
Professional Taxi	588-0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587-2300
Service Aruba	583-3232

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Jan. 21 Horizon  
Jan. 21 Costa Deliziosa

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American Airlines	Tel: 582-2700
Avianca	Tel: 588-0059
Dutch Antilles	Tel: 588-1900
Insel Air	Tel: 588-9314
Jet Blue	Tel: 588-2244
Spirit Airlines	Tel: 582-7117
Suriname Airways	Tel: 582-7896
Tiara Air	Tel: 588-4272
Venezolana	Tel: 583-7674

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(FADA) Tel: 583-2999

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# U.S. Marines studying mindfulness-based training

**JULIE WATSON**

**Associated Press**

**CAMP PENDLETON, California (AP)** — The U.S. Marine Corps, known for turning out some of the military's toughest warriors, is studying how to make its troops even tougher through meditative practices, yoga-type stretching and exercises based on mindfulness.

Marine Corps officials say they will build a curriculum that would integrate mindfulness-based techniques into their training if they see positive results from a pilot project. Mindfulness is a Buddhist-inspired concept that emphasizes active attention on the moment to keep the mind in the present.

Facing a record suicide rate and thousands of veterans seeking treatment for post-traumatic stress, the military has been searching for ways to reduce strains on service members burdened with more than a decade of fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan. Marine Corps officials are testing a series of brain calming exercises called "Mindfulness-Based Mind Fitness Training" that they believe could enhance the performance of troops, who are under mounting pressures from long deployments and looming budget cuts expected to slim down forces.

"Some people might say



**U.S. Marine Lance Corporal Carlos Lazano talks about a special training he underwent in which Marines were taught methods to "quiet the mind" and to reach an inner calm as a means to battle stress Tuesday Jan. 15, 2013 at Camp Pendleton, Calif.**

**Associated Press**

these are Eastern-based religious practices but this goes way beyond that," said Jeffery Bearor, the executive deputy of the Marine Corps training and education command at its headquarters in Quantico, Virginia.

"This is not tied to any religious practice. This is about mental preparation to better handle stress."

The School Infantry-West at Camp Pendleton will offer the eight-week course starting Tuesday to about 80 Marines.

The experiment builds on a 2011 study involving 160 Marines who were taught to focus their attention by concentrating on their body's sensations, including breathing, in a period of silence. The Marines practiced the calming methods after being immersed in a mock Afghan village with screaming actors and controlled blasts to expose them to combat stress. Naval Health

Research Center scientist Douglas C. Johnson, who is leading the research, monitored their reactions by looking at blood and saliva samples, images of their brains and problem-solving tests they took.

Another 160 other Marines went through the mock village with no mindfulness-based training, acting as the control group. Results from the 2011 study are expected to be published this spring.

The latest study by Johnson will compare three groups of Marines, whose biological reactions will be also monitored. One group of about 80 will receive mindfulness-based training. Another of equal size will be given mental resilience training based on sports psychology techniques. The third one will act as a control group.

Results from that study are expected in the fall, Marine Corps officials said.

Marine Corps officials de-

cided to extend the experiment to shore up evidence that the exercises help the brain better react to high-stress situations and recover more quickly from those episodes.

"If indeed that proves to be the case, then it's our intention to turn this into a training program where Marines train Marines in these techniques," Bearor said. "We would interject this into the entry level training pipeline — we don't know where yet — so every Marine would be trained in these techniques."

The idea is to give Marines a tool so they can regulate their own stress levels before they lead to problem behavior:

"We have doctors, counselors, behavioral health scientists, all sorts of people to get help for Marines who have exhibited stress type symptoms but what can we do before that happens? How do we armor Marines up so they are ca-

pable of handling stress?" Bearor said.

Lance Cpl. Carlos Lozano participated in the 2011 study, taking the course during his pre-deployment training that also included catapulting from a helicopter in a simulated raid and enduring booming explosions in a mock Afghan village.

Lozano said he and fellow Marines were skeptical at first. Some wondered why their rigorous combat training was being interrupted by a class asking the warfighters to sit in silence and stare at their combat boots, becoming aware of how their feet touched the classroom floor.

"I didn't want to do it," the 21-year-old from Denver said.

But the exercises — also done while standing, stretching and lying down — had an effect, he said. He felt more relaxed and upbeat.

"Mindfulness-based Mind Fitness Training" or "M-Fit" was designed by former U.S. Army Capt. Elizabeth Stanley, a professor at Georgetown University who found relief doing yoga and meditation for her PTSD.

Stanley, who is also involved in studies for the Army, said the techniques can help warfighters think more clearly under fire when they are often forced to make quick decisions that could mean life or death, and help them reset their nervous systems after being in combat.

Maj. Gen. Melvin Spiess said he was convinced after looking at the scientific research and then taking the course. □

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# Gordon-Levitt makes directorial debut at Sundance

**SANDY COHEN**

**AP Entertainment Writer**

**PARK CITY, Utah (AP)** —

Just call him Mr. Sundance. Joseph Gordon-Levitt is attending his sixth Sundance Film Festival, this time as writer and star of his directorial debut and host of the festival's closing awards ceremony.

The 31-year-old premiered "Don Jon's Addiction" Friday at the independent film showcase. He plays the title character, a man who prefers pornography to real sex, even though he brings home a different woman every weekend. Scarlett Johansson, Tony Danza and Julianne Moore also star.

"I wanted to tell a love story, and in my observations, what gets in the way of love oftentimes is the way the people objectify each other," Gordon-Levitt said in an interview Saturday. "The story centers on a relationship between

a boy and a girl, and the boy watches too much pornography, and the girl watches too many romantic Hollywood movies, and they're both sort of objectifying each other."

He brought the film to Sundance because of its community of artists who love storytelling.

"It's a community that reassures each other that there's more to movies than glitz and glamor and box office," he said. "And look, that stuff's all fine. But stories predate Hollywood. Stories predate the English language, and the reason that I love working in movies is because I love stories ... and I love being a part of this community here at Sundance that embraces that more than some of the other things that tend to take prominence in other parts of the movie industry." He said his film "would never get made within the studio system, but it's a



Director, writer and cast member, Joseph Gordon-Levitt poses at the premiere of "Don Jon's Addiction" during the 2013 Sundance Film Festival on Friday, Jan. 18, 2013 in Park City, Utah.

Associated Press

mainstream comedy."

"It doesn't follow the formula, but it's going to get out there and be in front of mainstream audiences,"

he said. "Sundance makes that possible for movies that don't follow the same old formula to get out there and find audiences."

Gordon-Levitt said he plans to spend the week seeing films before hosting the awards ceremony on Jan. 26. □

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# Chastain films take top 2 spots at box office

**JAKE COYLE**

**AP Entertainment Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Jessica Chastain easily outmuscled Arnold Schwarzenegger and Mark Wahlberg over the weekend, topping the box office with both her supernatural horror film "Mama" and the Oscar-nominated Osama bin Laden hunt thriller "Zero Dark Thirty."

"Mama" opened well above expectations with a box-office topping \$28.1 million for Universal Pictures, according to studio estimates Sunday. Chastain also held the second spot with "Zero Dark Thirty," for which she's nominated by the Academy Awards for best actress. In its second week of wide release, "Zero Dark Thirty" took in \$17.6 million.

The films' strong performances made an unlikely box-office queen out of a chameleon-like actress that even fans of "Mama" might have trouble recognizing. Chastain, whose credits range from Terrence Malick's "The Tree of Life" to "The Help" (for which she was also Oscar-nominated), even accomplished the rare feat by besting a couple more traditional box-office stars. Schwarzenegger's ac-



This film image released by Universal Pictures shows Jessica Chastain in a scene from "Mama." Associated Press

tion flick "The Last Stand" opened with just \$6.3 million for Lionsgate, one of the worst debuts for the brawny 65-year-old star. The film came in 10th.

Though Schwarzenegger co-starred in "The Expendables 2," which opened with \$28.6 million in August, "The Last Stand" is his first proper starring vehicle since exiting the California governor's seat in January 2011.

The Mark Wahlberg, Russell Crowe-led New York crime film "Broken City" didn't

fare much better. The Fox release premiered with \$9.1 million.

The Oscar-nominated "Django Unchained," meanwhile, became the director's biggest box-office hit in its fourth week. The Weinstein Co. release surpassed his previous film, "Inglourious Basterds," by adding \$8.2 million for a domestic total of \$138.4 million. But it did exception-

al business internationally, taking in \$48.1 million and proving that Tarantino's Western set in the antebellum South had tremendous appeal worldwide.

But domestically, audiences flocked to the PG-13-rated "Mama," which bore the imprimatur of the well-respected fantasy-spinner Guillermo Del Toro, a producer.

"Never underestimate the

drawing power of a PG-13 horror film," said Paul Dergarabedian, box-office analyst for Hollywood.com.

Nikki Rocco, head of distribution for Universal Pictures, acknowledged the apparently limitless appetite for such a film, if done right: "That's why we did it," she said.

"It's a fun film without a lot of extraordinary violence," said Rocco, who added she would have been "thrilled" with a debut in the mid- to high-teens. "Young people like scary stuff."

With Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday, Hollywood will get a virtual four-day weekend at the box office. Universal is predicting "Mama" to finish with \$33.2 million by the end of Monday.

Though horror films generally are a hit with male audiences, "Mama" appealed strongly to females, who made up 61 percent of its moviegoers. That was key on a weekend filled with male-driven movies, including "Broken City," "The Last Stand," "Django Unchained" and Warner Bros.' "Gangster Squad." "It's an incredibly competitive marketplace for testosterone-driven films," said Dergarabedian.

The Weinstein Co.'s "Silver Linings Playbook," nominated for eight Academy Awards including best picture, expanded to its largest number of theaters in its 10th week of release. Playing in 2,523 theaters, a jump of 1,713 theaters, the David O. Russell film took in \$11.4 million on the weekend — the same in which its star Jennifer Lawrence hosted "Saturday Night Live" — for a cumulative \$55.3 million.

Other Oscar favorites saw their largest boost internationally. Ang Lee's 3-D fantasy "Life of Pi" continued to attract moviegoers worldwide, adding \$20.7 million to its huge \$393.9 million international haul. The international take for Tom Hooper's musical, "Les Misérables," also grew to \$150.5 million with \$19.4 million on the weekend. □

## ABC News' Barbara Walters hospitalized

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Veteran ABC newswoman Barbara Walters has been hospitalized after falling at an inauguration party at the residence of Britain's ambassador to the United States. ABC News spokesman Jeffrey Schneider says the 83-year-old Walters fell Saturday night on a step at the residence of Peter Westmacott. Walters had a cut on her forehead.

Schneider said Sunday that Walters went to a hospital "out of an abundance of caution" and for a full examination.

He says Walters is alert "and telling everyone what to do," which is "a very positive sign."



In this Monday, April 23, 2012 photo, veteran ABC newswoman Barbara Walters arrives to the Matrix Awards in New York. Associated Press

It's unclear when Walters might be released. Walters was TV news' first female superstar, making headlines in 1976 as a network anchor with an unprecedented \$1 million annual salary. □

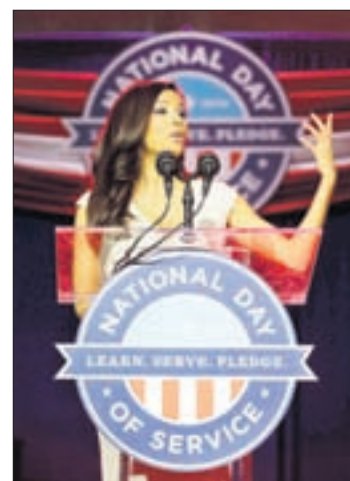
## Actress-turned-activist sees immigration deal

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Actress-turned-activist Eva Longoria says Republicans in the U.S. have a moral, political and economic duty to compromise on immigration.

Longoria is credited with helping bring Hispanic support to President Barack Obama.

Hispanics last year voted 7 to 1 for Obama over his challenger, Republican Mitt Romney. Analysts say that while immigration is not the top issue for Hispanic voters, many were turned off by Republicans' hard-line stance.

During the Republican primary, Romney promoted self-deportation as a solution to the estimated 11 million illegal immigrants in the U.S. And he said he would not let immigrants



Presidential Inaugural Committee Co-Chair Eva Longoria gestures as she participates in the opening ceremony for the National Day of Service as part of the 57th Presidential Inaugural festivities, Saturday, Jan. 19, 2013, in Washington. Associated Press

brought to the U.S. illegally as children to stay. Longoria spoke to ABC. □



## The Dwindling Deficit



PAUL KRUGMAN  
© 2013 New York Times

It's hard to turn on your TV or read an editorial page these days without encountering someone declaring, with an air of great seriousness, that excessive spending and the resulting budget deficit is our biggest problem. Such declarations are rarely accompanied by any argument about why we should believe this; it's supposed to be part of what everyone knows.

This is, however, a case in which what everyone knows just ain't so. The budget deficit isn't our biggest problem, by a long shot. Furthermore, it's a problem that is already, to a large degree, solved. The medium-term budget outlook isn't great, but it's not terrible either – and the long-term outlook gets much more attention than it should.

It's true that right now we have a large federal budget deficit. But that deficit is mainly the result of a depressed economy – and you're actually supposed to run deficits in a depressed economy to help support overall demand. The deficit will come down as the economy recovers: Revenue will rise while some categories of spending, such as unemployment benefits, will fall. Indeed, that's already happening. (And similar things are happening at the state and local levels – for example, California appears to be back in budget surplus.)

Still, will economic recovery be enough to stabilize the fiscal outlook? The answer is, pretty much. Recently the nonpartisan Center on Budget and Policy Priorities took Congressional Budget Office projections for the next decade and updated them to take account of two major deficit-reduction actions: the spending cuts agreed to in 2011, amounting to almost \$1.5 trillion over the next decade; and the roughly \$600 billion in tax increases on the affluent agreed to at the beginning of this year. What the center finds is a budget outlook that, as I said, isn't great but isn't terrible: It projects that the ratio of debt to GDP, the standard measure of America's debt position, will be only modestly higher in 2022 than it is now.

The center calls for another \$1.4 trillion in deficit reduction, which would completely stabilize the debt ratio; President Barack Obama has called for roughly the same amount. Even without such actions, however, the bud-

get outlook for the next 10 years doesn't look at all alarming.

Now, projections that run further into the future do suggest trouble, as an aging population and rising health care costs continue to push federal spending higher. But here's a question you almost never see seriously addressed: Why, exactly, should we believe that it's necessary, or even possible, to decide right now how we will eventually address the budget issues of the 2030s?

Consider, for example, the case of Social Security. There was a case for paying down debt before the baby boomers began to retire, making it easier to pay full benefits later.

But George W. Bush squandered the Clinton surplus on tax cuts and wars, and that window has closed. At this point, "reform" proposals are all about things like raising the retirement age or changing the inflation adjustment, moves that would gradually reduce benefits relative to current law. What problem is this supposed to solve?

Well, it's probable (although not certain) that, within two or three decades, the Social Security trust fund will be exhausted, leaving the system unable to pay the full benefits specified by current law. So the plan is to avoid cuts in future benefits by committing right now to ... cuts in future benefits. Huh?

OK, you can argue that the adjustment to an aging population would be smoother if we commit to a glide path of benefit cuts now.

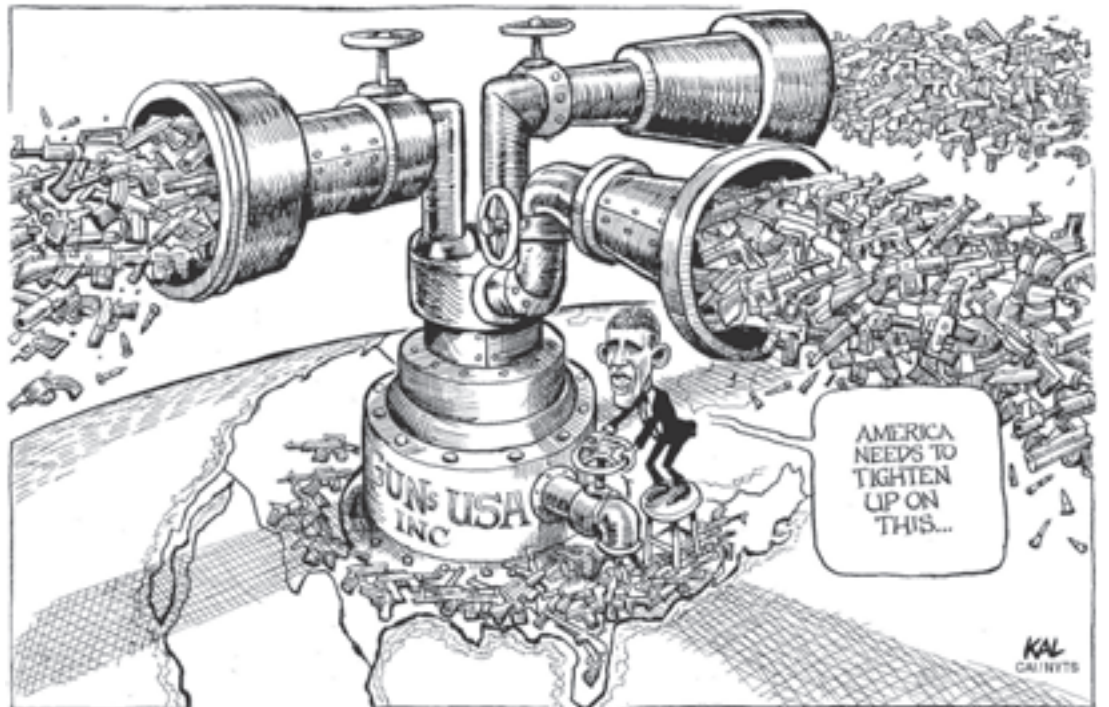
On the other hand, by moving too soon we might lock in benefit cuts that turn out not to have been necessary. And much the same logic applies to Medicare. So there's a reasonable argument for leaving the question of how to deal with future problems up to future politicians.

The point is that the case for urgent action now to reduce spending decades in the future is far weaker than conventional rhetoric might lead you to suspect. And, no, it's nothing like the case for urgent action on climate change.

So, no big problem in the medium term, no strong case for worrying now about long-run budget issues.

The deficit scolds dominating policy debate will, of course, fiercely resist any attempt to downgrade their favorite issue. They love living in an atmosphere of fiscal crisis: It lets them stroke their chins and sound serious, and it also provides an excuse for slashing social programs, which often seems to be their real objective.

But neither the current deficit nor projected future spending deserve to be anywhere near the top of our political agenda. It's time to focus on other stuff – like the still-depressed state of the economy and the still-terrible problem of long-term unemployment. □



## The Girl Of My Dreams



GAIL COLLINS  
© 2013 New York Times

There is nothing the world loves more than an athlete who's playing the game on behalf of a dying loved one.

In the land of sports, people who have terminal illnesses are always more interested in the team's fortunes than in having their son/brother/lover/best friend at their bedside. The story's been a staple ever since the expiring Ronald Reagan told Notre Dame to "win just one for the Gipper" in "Klute Rockne – All American."

And now we have Manti Te'o, the star linebacker for Notre Dame, whose dying girlfriend turned out to be imaginary. But imaginary with a lot of team spirit. "Babe, if anything happens to me, you promise that you'll stay there and you'll play and you'll honor me through the way you play," she told him when she was critically injured in a car crash, fell into a coma and then emerged to learn she had leukemia. When she was conscious, she devoted much of her time to writing inspirational letters to Te'o before each game.

Such a girlfriend does not exist. Somebody made her up, and the sports world is debating whether Te'o was the victim of a hoax, or part of the conspiracy. All I can say is, the story tells you a lot.

Fans cheered when Te'o played through what he said was the day of the funeral of his girlfriend, Lennay Kekua, who died on the same day as his actual grandmother. ("I knew ... that my girlfriend and my family would want me to be out there. They wouldn't want me to be sulking over things," he told Sports Illustrated.)

It's the American way. But as the story unfolded, it turned out that she didn't ever require his presence. In an interview with Sports Illustrated, Te'o said that at one point, he was on his way home to Hawaii for summer break when the comatose Lennay almost died in a hospital in California. "They were scheduled to pull the plug while I was in the air," he told Sports Illustrated.

It didn't seem to occur to him that he might have dropped by. Do you think this is a young-man fantasy – a girlfriend so lacking in neediness that you don't even have to visit her in the hospital while she's in a coma followed by leukemia?

In fact, there was apparently never any physical connection. They talked on the phone. Texted all the time. But the star linebacker – who reportedly saw other flesh-and-blood girls on campus – didn't seem to feel this special romance was lacking anything simply because it had no three-dimensional aspects.

Maybe in an era when "dating" seems to mean "send texts about whether to get together later," this counts as a fulfilling relationship.

It's possible Te'o was the credulous victim of an elaborate trick. But he was surrounded by a veritable army of coaches, chaplains and mentors, who were presumably privy to the Lennay saga from the start. Certainly they knew all about it when the Notre Dame publicity machine made it a core part of the football team's undefeated-until-the-championship-game season. But nobody seemed to raise

an eyebrow.

If you listened to the story while sitting next to Te'o on a bus, you would have warned him not to tell a national TV audience about this girlfriend until he got some proof she actually existed. ("We met just, ummmm, just she knew my cousin.

And kind of saw me there so. Just kind of regular," he told Sports Illustrated.)

But nobody at Notre Dame seems to have paid enough attention to figure out that the girl at the center of their winning-season story existed in the same universe as the Little Mermaid. Right after Christmas, Te'o told his coach that a woman who sounded like the dead girlfriend had called him to say she wasn't deceased after all. The coach told the higher ups, and Notre Dame hired an outside firm to investigate the case. When an expose broke on the website Deadspin, the school's athletic director, Jack Swarbrick, held a news conference to tearfully announce that the investigation showed that Te'o was the victim of a "very elaborate, sophisticated hoax perpetrated for reasons we can't fully understand. But it had a cruelty at its core."

This all occurred a couple of years after the Notre Dame team was involved in a genuine tragedy when a freshman from a neighboring girls' college reported she had been sexually assaulted by a football player. The school did not order up an outside investigation. In fact, there appeared to be no investigation at all. After a period of dead silence in which she received a threatening text from another player, the girl died from an overdose of medication. Nothing else happened. Writing this week in The Washington Post, Melinda Henneberger, a Notre Dame graduate, noted that "my alma mater held the kind of emotional news conference for the fake dead girl they never held for the real one, Lizzy Seeberg." □



# Fearless feline survives 200-mile journey home

**PAM BELLUCK**

© 2013 New York Times

Nobody knows how it happened: an indoor house cat who got lost on a family excursion managing, after two months and about 200 miles, to return to her hometown.

Even scientists are baffled by how Holly, a 4-year-old tortoiseshell who in early November became separated from Jacob and Bonnie Richter at an RV rally in Daytona Beach, Fla., appeared on New Year's Eve – staggering, weak and emaciated – in a backyard about a mile from the Richters' house in West Palm Beach.

"Are you sure it's the same cat?" wondered John Bradshaw, director of the Anthrozoology Institute at the University of Bristol in England. In other cases, he has suspected, "the cats are just strays, and the people have got kind of a mental justification for expecting it to be the same cat." But Holly not only had distinctive black-and-brown harlequin patterns on her fur, but also an implanted microchip to identify her. "I really believe these stories, but they're just hard to explain," said Marc Bekoff, a behavioral ecologist at the University of Colorado. "Maybe being street-smart, maybe reading animal cues, maybe being able to read cars, maybe being a good hunter. I have no data for this."

There is, in fact, little scientific dogma on cat navigation. Migratory animals like birds, turtles and insects have been studied more closely, and use magnetic fields, olfactory cues or orientation by the sun.

Scientists say it is more common, although still rare, to hear of dogs returning home, perhaps suggesting, Bradshaw said, that they have inherited wolves' ability to navigate using magnetic clues. But it is also possible that dogs get taken on more family trips, and that lost dogs are more easily noticed or helped by people along the way.

Cats navigate well around familiar landscapes, mem-

orizing locations by sight and smell, and easily figuring out shortcuts, Bradshaw said.

Strange, faraway locations would seem problematic, although he and Patrick Bateson, a behavioral biologist at Cambridge University, say that cats can sense smells across long distances. "Let's say they associate the smell of pine with wind coming from the north, so they move in a southerly direction," Bateson said.

Peter Borchelt, a New York animal behaviorist, wondered if Holly followed the Florida coast by sight or sound, tracking Interstate 95 and deciding to "keep that to the right and keep the ocean to the left."

But, he said, "nobody's going to do an experiment and take a bunch of cats in different directions and see which ones get home." The closest, said Roger Tabor, a British cat biologist, may have been a 1954 study in Germany, in which cats placed in a covered circular maze with exits every 15 degrees most often exited in the direction of their homes. They did so more reliably if their homes were less than five kilometers away.

New research by the National Geographic and University of Georgia's Kitty Cams Project, using video footage from 55 pet cats wearing video cameras on their collars, suggests cat behavior is exceedingly complex.

Tabor cited longer-distance reports he consid-

ered credible: Murka, a tortoiseshell in Russia, traveling 325 miles home to Moscow from her owner's mother's house in Voronezh in 1989; Ninja, who returned to Farmington, Utah, in 1997, a year after her family moved from there to Mill

Still, explaining such journeys is not black and white. In the case of the Richters – Bonnie, 63, a retired nurse, and Jacob, 70, a retired airline mechanics' supervisor and accomplished bowler – they began traveling with Holly only last year, and she

special milk for cats, and eventually the cat came inside.

They named her Cosette after the orphan in "Les Misérables," and took her to a veterinarian, Dr. Sara Beg at Paws2Help. Beg said the cat was underweight and



**Holly, a 4-year-old tortoiseshell, at her home in West Palm Beach, Fla., Jan. 15, 2013. Holly, lost on a family trip, managed to return to her hometown after a 200-mile trek and that feat has scientists baffled.**

(B. P. Fernandez/The New York Times)

Creek, Wash.; and Howie, an indoor Persian cat in Australia who in 1978 ran away from the relatives his vacationing family left him with and eventually traveled 1,000 miles to his family's home.

Tabor also said a Siamese in the English village of Black Notley repeatedly hopped a train, disembarked at White Notley and walked several miles back to Black Notley.

easily tolerated a hotel, a cabin or the RV.

But during the Good Sam RV Rally in Daytona, when they were camping near the speedway with 3,000 other motor homes, Holly bolted when Bonnie Richter's mother opened the door one night. Fireworks the next day may have further spooked her, and, after searching for days, alerting animal agencies and posting fliers, the Richters returned home catless. Two weeks later, an animal rescue worker called the Richters to say a cat resembling Holly had been spotted eating behind the Daytona franchise of Hooters, where employees put out food for feral cats.

Then, on New Year's Eve, Barb Mazzola, a university executive assistant, noticed a cat "barely standing" in her back yard in West Palm Beach, struggling even to meow. Over six days, Mazzola and her children cared for the cat, putting out food, including

dehydrated, had "back claws and nail beds worn down, probably from all that walking on pavement," but was "bright and alert" and had no parasites or viruses.

"She was hesitant and scared around people she didn't know, so I don't think she went up to people and got a lift," she said. "I think she made the journey on her own."

At Paws2Help, Mazzola said, "I almost didn't want to ask, because I wanted to keep her, but I said, 'Just check and make sure she doesn't have a microchip.'" When told the cat did, "I just cried."

The Richters cried too upon seeing Holly, who instantly relaxed when placed on Jacob Richter's shoulder. Re-entry is proceeding well, but the mystery persists.

"We haven't the slightest idea how they do this," Galaxy said. "Anybody who says they do is lying, and, if you find it, please God, tell me what it is." □



**Holly with her owners, Jacob and Bonnie Richter, at their home in West Palm Beach, Fla., Jan. 15, 2013.**

(B. P. Fernandez/The New York Times)